

Prologue

This report is submitted pursuant to the “United Nations Participation Act of 1945” (Public Law 79-264). Section 4 of this law provides, in part, that:

“The President shall from time to time as occasion may require, but not less than once each year, make reports to the Congress of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein.”

In July 2003, the President delegated to the Secretary of State the authority to transmit this report to Congress.

The *United States Participation in the United Nations* report is a survey of the activities of the U.S. Government in the United Nations and its agencies, as well as the activities of the United Nations and those agencies themselves. More specifically, this report seeks to assess UN achievements during 2007, the effectiveness of U.S. participation in the United Nations, and whether U.S. goals were advanced or thwarted.

The United States is committed to the founding ideals of the United Nations. Addressing the UN General Assembly in 2007, President Bush said:

“With the commitment and courage of this chamber, we can build a world where people are free to speak, assemble, and worship as they wish; a world where children in every nation grow up healthy, get a decent education, and look to the future with hope; a world where opportunity crosses every border. America will lead toward this vision where all are created equal, and free to pursue their dreams. This is the founding conviction of my country. It is the promise that established this body. And with our determination, it can be the future of our world.”

The United States believes that the United Nations should be a place where diverse countries and cultures of the world work together for freedom, democracy, peace, human rights, and prosperity for all people. In 2007, the United Nations continued to face many challenges in living up to those founding principles.

This report treats thematically UN activities that most significantly affected U.S. interests. It is divided into six Parts:

Part 1, on **Political and Security Affairs**, focuses on activities undertaken by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Under the UN Charter, the primary responsibility for this task lies in the Security Council, which is empowered to take various actions to maintain international peace and security, such as adopting resolutions authorizing peacekeeping and special political missions or employing coercive measures, including sanctions. The activities of the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies are also described. This chapter also covers security-related thematic issues, such as disarmament and international terrorism.

In 2007, the United States continued to push in the Security Council for a resolution of the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, and to end obstruction by the Government of Sudan against the deployment of a robust UN peacekeeping force in Darfur. In July, the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1769 authorizing the deployment of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) with the protection of civilians at the core of its mandate. The Resolution called for a phased transition of authority from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to UNAMID, which took place December 31, 2007. By that date, UNAMID had yet to deploy the bulk of its forces and did not have commitments from troop-contributing countries for certain key assets, such as helicopters and transport units. In Chad, the European Union force and the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) began deploying in 2007 to help provide security for refugees from Darfur.

The United States also continued to push for nuclear disarmament in 2007. Regarding Iran, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1747 to impose additional Chapter VII sanctions. Resolution 1747 built upon Resolutions 1696 and 1737 by extending the asset freeze and travel restrictions to individuals and entities. It also prohibited Iran's export of arms and called upon the international community not to enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance, or concessional loans with the Government of Iran, except for humanitarian and developmental purposes. In November, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Iran continued not to meet its international commitments. Regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) in 2007, the United States led disablement activities, which progressed although the D.P.R.K. did not provide a declaration of its nuclear program by December 31, 2007.

The United States remained committed to peace in the Near East. The United States stood by its vision for the creation of the new state of Palestine to live harmoniously next to the state of Israel. The Security Council adopted press statements expressing grave concern at the breakdown of the Mecca Accord ceasefire and renewed fighting in Gaza in May. In December, the Council welcomed the international donor's conference for a Palestinian state. In the General Assembly and other UN bodies, the United States continued to speak forcefully to ensure that Israel was not excluded nor isolated at UN meetings, with Israeli interests given fair consideration.

The United States also continued its active support of Iraq. Security Council actions included the adoption of Resolutions 1770 and 1790, which extended the mandates of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and Multinational Force in Iraq (and certain arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq), respectively. In addition, with respect to Lebanon, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1757, which decided that the provisions of the agreement to establish a Special Tribunal for Lebanon to prosecute those responsible for the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and others would enter into force on June 10, unless the Government of

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Lebanon provided notification that the legal requirements for entry into force had been complied with; it did not. The United States donated \$5 million to help the start up costs of the Tribunal's operations. In 2007, the Security Council also adopted Resolution 1773, which commended the positive role of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in critically improving the security situation.

Part 2, on **Economic and Social Affairs**, assesses the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and various subsidiary bodies and commissions on issues that involve economic development, the status of women, humanitarian aid, and crime prevention and control.

The UN Human Rights Council held three regular sessions, one special session, and also met informally throughout 2007. Despite the Council's successful special session on Burma, its performance during the year was extremely disappointing. The Council pushed through, despite a lack of consensus, a resolution establishing its flawed institutional procedures and agenda; continued its unbalanced treatment of Israel, including by establishing a permanent agenda item on the situation in Palestine; eliminated the Cuba and Belarus human rights special rapporteurs; took only very weak measures on Sudan; and took no action on the D.P.R.K., Iran, Cuba, or Belarus. Violence in Zimbabwe in March 2007 resulted in a statement by some Council members and observers (including the United States) but no resolution. The United States supported the Council's special session on Burma and helped to ensure the technical cooperation mandates for Liberia, Haiti, and Burundi were renewed in the Council's September session.

Part 3, on **Specialized Agencies**, describes the activities of a host of agencies, from the Food and Agriculture Organization to the World Health Organization, and assesses how they served U.S. interests.

Part 4, on **Legal Developments**, highlights the work of the judicial bodies, such as the international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the International Court of Justice. Part 5, on **Reform of the UN System**, describes progress on reform of the United Nations and of the main UN bodies.

The United States and other member states supported the UN's focused efforts on improving management practices. Delegates worked to modernize the UN Secretariat; strengthen oversight, ethics, and accountability systems; and review UN program mandates. For example, the General Assembly appointed the first members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee and passed a resolution to create a new two-tier formal system for adjudicating grievances. In addition, the United States launched a system-wide UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative which seeks to apply reforms already adopted for the UN Secretariat to UN funds, programs, and specialized agencies so that all UN entities are held to the same standards.

In addition, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented proposals for restructuring the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). The General Assembly passed a resolution approving the proposal with some

modifications. The restructuring created the Department of Field Support for administrative and logistic support, with DPKO responsible for military, police, and stabilization planning.

Part 6, on **Administration and Budget** provides an overview of the current UN financial situation and resource management issues. The UN General Assembly adopted a \$4.2 billion biennium budget in December – against U.S. opposition due largely to the piecemeal approach to budgeting being used by the UN and the unrestrained growth a potential 25% increase would represent. This budget for the 2008-2009 biennium is slightly below the final budget for the previous biennium, but the General Assembly deferred to the resumed session of 2008 proposals that, if approved, could increase the budget substantially, perhaps by an additional \$1 billion.

Finally, the report's appendices include the President's 2007 speech to the UN General Assembly and information about the principal organs of the United Nations and their membership.

Questions about this report may be directed to the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Political and Security Affairs

Regional Issues

Near East

Arab-Israeli Situation

During 2007, the United States actively pursued President Bush's vision of a two-state solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security. The United States continued to work in partnership with the other members of the Quartet (the United Nations, European Union, and Russia) to achieve progress on the Quartet's Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict ("Roadmap").

In May, the breakdown of the Mecca Accord ceasefire between Hamas and Fatah led to renewed fighting in Gaza and the deaths of more than 50 Palestinians. At the same time, hundreds of rocket and mortar attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups from the Gaza Strip into Israel caused two civilian deaths and dozens of injuries. On May 30, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/9028) expressing grave concern at the breakdown of the ceasefire and the resulting increase in violence. The members welcomed the efforts of Palestinian President Abbas to establish a ceasefire, urged all parties to support his call for an immediate end to the violence, and expressed appreciation for the support of the Government of Egypt. The Quartet principals, meeting in Berlin on May 30, welcomed the Council's press statement. They expressed concern over the factional violence, called on all Palestinians to respect the ceasefire, and condemned the continued firing of Qassam rockets into Israel by Hamas and other terrorist groups. Fighting continued in June, resulting in Hamas gaining control of Gaza and President Abbas dissolving the unity government and declaring a state of emergency on June 14.

On December 21, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/9216) welcoming the international donors' conference for the Palestinian state held in Paris on December 17. The statement applauded the conference as a strong international signal of support to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority, constituting "an important step in a broader process aiming at the realization of the vision of two States living side by side in peace and security." Council members urged a rapid disbursement of pledges and called on all states and international organizations in a position to do so to assist in the development of the Palestinian economy, to maximize the resources available to the Palestinian Authority, and to contribute to Palestinian institution-building in preparation for statehood.

The 62nd General Assembly's regular session in the fall of 2007 voted on 19 resolutions concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and related issues,

down from the 23 adopted in 2006. The United States opposed many of these resolutions because they addressed final status issues that the Israelis and Palestinians must decide through negotiations; advocated activities or language incompatible with basic principles of the Middle East peace process; or expended resources that could be used in more productive ways to improve the lives of the Palestinian people.

On December 17, both the United States and Israel joined consensus on a General Assembly resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people, but, in a subsequent explanation of its position, Israel's representative noted with regret that the resolution made only passing reference to the Annapolis conference and that it failed to note the responsibility of Hamas for the grievous humanitarian situation in Gaza. On December 19, the General Assembly adopted an Israeli-sponsored resolution on "Agricultural Technology for Development," underlining the need for member states to make their knowledge and know-how in the fields of agricultural technology and innovation accessible to developing countries. The resolution passed with 147 countries, including the United States, voting in favor and no objections. Thirty countries, including many in the Arab Group, abstained, but they made no effort to block the resolution.

During the 62nd General Assembly, the United States continued its efforts to target three resolutions that renewed the mandates of UN entities that embody institutional discrimination against Israel: the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Despite strong U.S. diplomatic efforts, support for all three resolutions increased somewhat between 2006 and 2007, although those opposing them remained constant. The 62nd General Assembly adopted these resolutions by votes of 110-8 (U.S.)-54, 109-8 (U.S.)-55, and 93-8 (U.S.)-74, respectively.

Throughout the year, U.S. representatives spoke out forcefully and frequently in numerous UN bodies to ensure that Israel was not excluded from or isolated at UN meetings and conferences, with Israeli interests given fair consideration.

Iran

Throughout 2007, the United States was actively engaged in both the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to pressure Iran to comply with its international nuclear obligations. In response to the threat presented by Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability, the Security Council and the IAEA took a number of actions against Iran, culminating in negotiations on a third round of UN Security Council sanctions at the end of the year.

Building upon its efforts in 2006, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1747 on March 24, 2007, imposing

additional, legally binding sanctions on Iran under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. UN Security Council Resolution 1747 reaffirmed the provisions in Resolutions 1696 and 1737 and built upon those provisions, including by extending the asset freeze and travel restrictions to individuals and entities in the 1747 annex, most notably to Bank Sepah and several individuals and entities affiliated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. Resolution 1747 included a provision prohibiting Iran's export of all arms and related materiel and called upon states to exercise vigilance and restraint in their supply to Iran of arms listed in the UN Register on Conventional Arms. The Resolution also called upon all states and international financial institutions not to enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance, or concessional loans with the Government of Iran, except for strictly humanitarian and developmental purposes. The Resolution further requested the IAEA Director-General to report within 60 days on Iran's compliance with the terms of the resolution. The Council clearly stated that it "shall" consider the adoption of further appropriate measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter if the IAEA Director-General reported that Iran had failed to comply with Resolutions 1737 and 1747.

The May 23, 2007, IAEA Director-General's report, submitted pursuant to Resolution 1747, once again made clear that Iran had failed to suspend its enrichment-related and heavy water-related activities, as required by Resolution 1737. As indicated in the report and by Iran's own admission, Iran instead continued to expand its enrichment- and heavy water-related activities and refused to cooperate fully with the IAEA. The August 30, 2007 Director-General's report further confirmed Iran's continued refusal to suspend its proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities. This was the fifth time since the Council's adoption of Resolution 1696 that the IAEA Director-General had reported Iran's failure to comply with the Council's demands.

On August 27, 2007, the IAEA released a "Plan of Action" (Plan) that it developed with Iran on modalities for resolving outstanding issues with respect to Iran's nuclear program. While the implementation of the Plan would be a positive step if Iran cooperated fully and transparently, completion of the Plan would be insufficient insofar as Iranian compliance with its UN Security Council obligations is concerned. Moreover, Iran also must implement fully its IAEA Safeguards Agreement and grant the IAEA all required access and transparency. To that end, Iran must acknowledge and respect its continuing obligation to provide the IAEA with early declaration of any intent to construct new nuclear facilities, an obligation which Iran announced that it was suspending on March 25, 2007.

On November 15, 2007, the IAEA Director-General reported a continued Iranian pattern of incomplete implementation of its international commitments. As stated in the report, Iran's cooperation with the IAEA had continued to be "reactive rather than proactive," and Iran continued to move forward with its centrifuge activities at Natanz and its construction of the Arak Heavy Water Research Reactor, in violation of its UN Security Council legal

obligation to suspend proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities. The Director-General reported that while Iran had taken some long overdue steps to address questions about the scope of past centrifuge activities and the IAEA investigation had made some progress, the IAEA was not in a position, based on information then available, to draw conclusions about “the underlying nature” of Iran’s programs, i.e., whether they were solely peaceful. The Director-General also reported that the IAEA had been unable to verify the non-existence of undeclared nuclear material or facilities in Iran, noting that Iran no longer provided the type of information that it had previously been providing, pursuant to the Additional Protocol and as a transparency measure. “As a result, the Agency’s knowledge about Iran’s current nuclear program is diminishing.” The Director-General stated that Iran must “clear the deck” by resolving all outstanding questions by the end of the 2007.

In a joint statement issued on September 28, 2007, the P5+1 foreign ministers announced their agreement to finalize a text for a third Chapter VII resolution imposing additional sanctions and bring it to the Security Council for a vote unless the November reports of both IAEA Director-General ElBaradei and European Union High Representative Solana showed a positive outcome in their efforts to secure Iran’s compliance with its international obligations. The P5+1 political directors met several times during the fall of 2007 to discuss and finalize the elements of the next sanctions resolution on Iran. The Security Council was expected to consider a new sanctions resolution in early 2008.

Per Resolutions 1737 and 1747, states are to report to the Iran Sanctions Committee within 60 days of the adoption of the resolution on the steps taken to implement their obligations. At the end of 2007, the Committee had received 87 national reports under Resolution 1737 and 71 national reports under Resolution 1747. All states that submitted reports assured the Committee of their commitment to implementing the resolutions and to meeting their obligations.

On February 5, 2007, pursuant to Resolution 1737, the Committee solicited information from the IAEA regarding the Agency’s efforts to implement the Resolution 1737 measures that restrict the scope of the technical cooperation provided by the IAEA to Iran. On March 8, 2007, the IAEA informed the Committee that out of 55 projects, 22 were to be suspended per an IAEA Board of Governors decision of March 5, 2007. Technical cooperation was to continue for food, agricultural, medical, safety, and humanitarian purposes. The Committee solicited an update on the issue on August 7, 2007. By letter dated August 22, 2007, the IAEA informed the Committee that no projects had been added to its technical cooperation program with Iran since the issuance of its first report, and it provided an update on technical cooperation and technical assistance activities since March 8, 2007. Six requests for technical cooperation were considered to be covered and had proceeded; five others had not. Twenty-four requests for participation

in technical assistance activities had been deemed in conformity with Resolution 1737, and three requests had not.

Iraq

The United States continued its active engagement with the United Nations in 2007 to support Iraq's efforts to build a united, secure, and stable country in the face of significant security concerns. The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) expanded its staffing in Baghdad, Erbil, and Basrah and enhanced its support for the Iraqi government and people, including through assistance on electoral activities, national reconciliation, conduct of a constitutional review, resolution of disputed internal boundaries, facilitation of regional and international dialogue and cooperation, assistance to refugees, and efforts to address other humanitarian and development needs. In addition, UNAMI played a full role in the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) and Expanded Neighbors process. The ICI is an initiative of the Government of Iraq for a partnership with the international community to achieve a far-reaching five-year national plan for improved security, political reconciliation, and economic development. The first Expanded Neighbors of Iraq Ministerial was convened on May 4 in Sharm el-Sheikh for the purpose of creating a forum in which Iraq and its neighbors could address the political and security challenges facing Iraq.

On March 15, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Ashraf Qazi conducted the first quarterly briefing of the UN Security Council in 2007 on UNAMI operations, while U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Alex Wolff reported on behalf of Multinational Force – Iraq (MNF-I). SRSG Qazi focused on the threat of political, sectarian, and criminal violence and the resulting humanitarian crisis. He also called upon the Iraqi Government to inspire its citizens' confidence in its political reform agenda and urged neighboring countries to help restore stability. Ambassador Wolff noted the creation of the Baghdad Security Plan to renew the Iraqi Security Forces' efforts to secure the capital and President Bush's announcement of a "New Way Forward" strategy. Ambassador Wolff also spoke on the Iraqi Government's efforts to build positive relations with its neighbors. Iraqi Vice President Adil Abd-al Mahdi reaffirmed his government's commitment to establishing security, rebuilding the Iraqi political structure and economy, and promoting international partnership toward the achievement of peace.

On April 13, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/11) condemning a terrorist attack in Iraq on April 12 that targeted the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The statement underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers, and sponsors to justice and urged all states to cooperate with Iraqi authorities in that regard.

On May 3 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) was launched by its co-chairs, the UN, and the Government of Iraq, with the endorsement of the United States and over 70 other countries and international organizations. Participating countries pledged more than \$670

million in new development assistance and upwards of \$25 billion in debt relief. The first Mid-Year ICI Report was delivered at the UN in New York on September 20. The report indicated that Iraq was making good progress toward achieving its economic objectives under the ICI.

Participants in the first Expanded Neighbors of Iraq Ministerial on May 4 in Sharm el-Sheikh included the countries neighboring Iraq plus Egypt, Bahrain, the UN, the Group of Eight, the permanent five Security Council members, the European Union, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The group endorsed the creation of three working groups on border security, energy, and refugees, all of which met later in the year.

In May and December 2007, the Secretary-General issued biannual update reports on Iraq's progress on repatriating or returning all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains and all Kuwaiti property, including archives, seized by Iraq, as mandated by Resolution 1284 (1999). Both reports confirmed that the case of the missing American serviceman, Captain Michael Scott Speicher, remained unresolved and that Kuwait had been unable to resume search and exhumation activities in Iraq due to the dangerous security situation. The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait turned over two boxes of recovered documents to the Kuwaiti government.

On June 13, consistent with Resolution 1723 (2006), the Security Council conducted a six-month review of the mandate of the MNF-I and certain arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB). In accordance with Resolution 1483 (2003), the proceeds from all export sales of petroleum, petroleum products, and natural gas from Iraq are deposited in the DFI, which is audited by independent public accountants approved by the IAMB. The Council heard briefings by SRSG Qazi and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Khalilzad. SRSG Qazi expressed serious concern about the deepening sense of insecurity and pessimism in Iraq, which he attributed to the lack of progress in resolving the overlapping sectarian, political, and ethnic conflicts. Ambassador Khalilzad reported on the recent accomplishments of MNF-I and the increasing capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, as well as progress in the political and economic sectors. Iraqi Foreign Minister Zebari, who also attended the meeting, provided an update on current developments in Iraq, including the implementation of the Government of Iraq's Baghdad Security Plan and its political, economic, and reconciliation efforts.

As requested by the Government of Iraq in a June 8 letter, the Council agreed to continue the MNF-I mandate and the arrangements for the DFI and IAMB for another six months. Following the meeting, the Council issued a press statement on Iraq that summarized the briefings, called upon the international community to continue its support of Iraq, and condemned the attacks on the holy shrines in Samarra, which occurred on June 13.

On June 29, the United States and the United Kingdom (U.K.) submitted a resolution terminating the mandate of the UN Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), as well as the related

Nuclear Verification Office of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Iraq. The Security Council passed the proposed resolution (1762) by a vote of 14 in favor with Russia abstaining. The Council also decided that all remaining funds in the UNMOVIC escrow account should be deposited in the DFI within three months of the Resolution's adoption and that the Government of Iraq should report to the Council within one year on the progress made in adhering to applicable disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and related international agreements.

On August 10, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1770, which extended UNAMI's mandate for 12 months and stated the Council's intention to review the mandate in one year or sooner, if so requested by the Iraqi Government. (The Council also welcomed the August 6 letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Zebari, which reaffirmed his government's request that UNAMI assist Iraqi efforts to build a productive and prosperous nation at peace with itself and its neighbors.)

Resolution 1770, which was co-sponsored by the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Slovakia, also broadened the mandate of UNAMI by authorizing the SRSG to "advise, support, and assist" the Iraqi Government in advancing a national dialogue and political reconciliation; holding elections and referendums; resolving internal boundary disputes; facilitating regional dialogue; reintegrating former members of illegal armed groups; and conducting a census. The SRSG was further authorized to "promote, support, and facilitate, in coordination with the Government of Iraq," the return of and humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); the implementation of the International Compact with Iraq; the provision of essential services and donor coordination through the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI); economic reform, capacity-building, and the conditions for sustainable development; the development of civil, social, and essential services; and the contributions of UN agencies, funds, and programs.

The Resolution further called upon the Secretary-General to brief the Council within three months from the date of its passage, and on a quarterly basis thereafter. U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad delivered a statement to the Council upon the adoption of Resolution 1770, affirming that the newly expanded mandate would assist domestic reconciliation, promote regional understanding, and help marshal resources to assist those Iraqis affected by the humanitarian crisis.

On September 11, Staffan de Mistura of Sweden was appointed to replace Ashraf Qazi as SRSG in Iraq and head of UNAMI. He assumed his responsibilities on November 11.

On October 19, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Lynn Pascoe briefed the Council, in accordance with Resolution 1770. He reported that recent developments in Iraq provided an opportunity for progress that must not be missed. The positive trends, including the lowest monthly casualties for the year during September, resulted in part from the ceasefire

declared by the Mahdi Army, the growing Sunni rejection of Al-Qaeda, the pact reached by the Sadrists, and the efforts of MNF-I and the Iraqi Security Forces. Pascoe urged Iraqi leaders to move beyond rhetoric toward progress on the constitutional review and major legislation, including oil and de-Ba'athification reform, as part of a wider political reconciliation process. He also pressed member states to increase contributions to the trust fund to support the "distinct entity" of the Multi-National Force, which provides security for UNAMI. U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad also made a statement to the Council at this meeting, citing the Anbar Awakening, the rejection of Shia extremists, and the 2007 surge in Coalition forces as contributing factors to the improving security situation.

On October 28-29, the Sixth Donor Committee Meeting of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) was held in Bari, Italy. The IRFFI is comprised of two Iraq Trust Funds – one operated by the UN Development Group (UNDG) and the other by the World Bank. The UNDG reported that international donor contributions to the IRFFI continued to rise following the launch of the ICI in Sharm el-Sheikh in May. The Donor Committee decided to align the activities of the IRFFI with the goals and objectives of the ICI and further decided that funding from the European Union (EU) and the IRFFI would support the UNAMI offices in Baghdad in providing technical assistance to help the ICI Secretariat with its work.

On November 3, the second Expanded Neighbors Ministerial was held in Istanbul, Turkey. Participants issued a final communiqué in which they reaffirmed their commitment to helping Iraq restore peace, stability, and prosperity; endorsed the creation of a "support mechanism" to carry out administrative duties and chart progress; and agreed to hold the next ministerial in Kuwait in 2008.

On December 18, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1790, extending until December 31, 2008, the mandate of MNF-I and certain arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), including the extension of legal immunities and oversight by the IAMB, the monitoring body for the Development Fund for Iraq. The resolution also contained language setting a review of the mandate for MNF-I and DFI/IAMB no later than June 15, 2008, and declared that it would terminate the mandate earlier if so requested by the Government of Iraq. Prior to the adoption of the Resolution, Warren Sach, the UN's representative on the IAMB, briefed on the current status of the DFI/IAMB. In his statement at the adoption of Resolution 1790, U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad welcomed the extension of MNF-I and the DFI/IAMB as indicators of the international community's continued support of the Iraqi people and of the Iraqi government's progress toward self-reliance.

Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki wrote a letter to the Security Council, which was annexed to Resolution 1790, announcing that Iraq would not request another extension of MNF-I's mandate when it expired on December 31, 2008, with the expectation that the Council would thereafter not invoke Chapter VII authority when handling the situation in Iraq.

During 2007, the United States, on behalf of MNF-I, presented four reports to the Security Council regarding MNF-I activities in Iraq, consistent with Resolutions 1546 (2004), 1637 (2005), and 1723 (2006).

Lebanon

The United States continued its active engagement in the United Nations to support the Government of Lebanon as it expanded its sovereignty to all of Lebanese territory. The United States is committed to the full implementation of all UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions regarding Lebanese sovereignty, including UNSC Resolutions 1559, 1701, and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

UNSC Resolution 1559

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004) reaffirmed the Security Council's call for strict respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon as well as its call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, and the extension of Lebanese government control over the entire country.

On May 7, 2007, the Secretary-General issued his fifth semi-annual report on the implementation of Resolution 1559. The report noted that weapons outside of the area of command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) undermine the authority of the Lebanese state. It called on Syria to take further steps to secure the border. The report emphasized that Syrian cooperation to enforce the arms embargo established in Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) was an indispensable element in enabling the extension of the Lebanese Government's control over all of its territory. On May 23, 2007, the UN Security Council issued a press statement condemning Fatah al-Islam's attack on Lebanese security and armed forces in northern Lebanon and reiterating the Council's unequivocal condemnation of any attempt to destabilize Lebanon. It underlined the Council's readiness to continue to act in support of the legitimate and democratically-elected Government of Lebanon.

On June 11, 2007, the United States joined with other members of the UN Security Council to issue a Presidential Statement welcoming the above-mentioned fifth report to the Security Council on the implementation of Resolution 1559. The Presidential Statement also reiterated the call for free and fair presidential elections in conformity with the Lebanese constitution and without any foreign interference and influence, and it urged political parties in Lebanon to relaunch a national dialogue. The Presidential Statement condemned ongoing criminal and terrorist acts, including those perpetrated by Fatah al-Islam, and supported the efforts of the Lebanese government and army to ensure safety and stability in Lebanon. The Presidential Statement reiterated the Council's deep concern at mounting information from Israel and other states on illegal movements of arms into Lebanon, and in particular across the Lebanese-Syrian border.

On September 27, 2007, in advance of the expiration of the term of Lebanese President Lahoud on November 24, 2007, the United States joined with other members of the UN Security Council to issue a press statement calling for the holding of a free and fair presidential election in conformity with Lebanese constitutional norms and without any foreign interference. The Council also took note of the decision to convene a Lebanese parliamentary session on October 23 and looked forward to the Parliament electing a president.

On October 24, 2007, the UN Secretary-General released his sixth semi-annual report on the implementation of Resolution 1559. According to the report, Lebanon continued to experience political crisis and instability. The report concluded that political tension focused primarily on the demand of the opposition (consisting of Amal, Hizballah, and the Free Patriotic Movement) to establish a national unity government. The report also pointed to the absence of succession to President Lahoud, whose extended term in office ended in November 2007. It noted that political tensions had been exacerbated since December 2006 by ongoing protests in front of the Prime Minister's office, which paralyzed regular political life in Lebanon. The report also noted that a significant number of bomb attacks and assassinations had taken place during the reporting period.

The United States continues to support full implementation of all the provisions of Resolution 1559 to ensure Lebanon's political independence and territorial integrity, as well as the stability of Lebanon and the wider region.

United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission

The UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC) was established by Security Council Resolution 1595 (2005) to assist Lebanese authorities in investigating the February 14 terrorist bombing that resulted in the death of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 19 others. In 2006, Security Council Resolution 1748 extended the Commission's mandate through June 15, 2008, and requested UNIIC report to the Council on the progress of its investigation every four months or at any other time it deemed appropriate. (Previously, UNIIC had been requested to report to the Council every three months.)

During 2007, UNIIC issued three progress reports on its investigation of the Hariri assassination. Its March 15 report underscored UNIIC's belief that, beyond those directly involved in the crime and those who decided it should take place, certain other individuals may have had prior knowledge of the attack. It noted that as the bombing team began final preparations for the attack, some potentially relevant individuals noticeably altered their activities. The report characterized Syrian cooperation as "generally satisfactory." (UN Security Council Resolution 1636, adopted on October 31, 2005, required Syria to cooperate with the Commission.) The Commission's July 12 report noted that it had consolidated previously acquired evidence to hand over to a prosecutor and that the Commission had identified persons of interest. The November 14 report contained less detail

than previous UNIIIC reports; it stated that UNIIIC could not jeopardize the integrity of its investigation nor the identity of witnesses by disclosing its substantive findings and was “of the opinion that only limited information [could] be placed in the public domain regarding its ongoing investigations.”

In 2007, the Security Council issued three Presidential Statements and a press statement condemning the assassinations of Lebanese officials and other terrorist attacks and sent letters to the Secretary-General authorizing UNIIIC to help provide technical assistance to the Government of Lebanon in connection with its investigation into the following crimes:

- February 13 terrorist attacks on two public buses that killed at least three people in northeast Beirut (press statement adopted February 13; letter sent to the Secretary-General on February 15);
- June 13 assassination of Member of Parliament Walid Eido and at least nine others (Presidential Statement adopted June 3; letter sent to the Secretary-General on June 14);
- September 19 assassination of Member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem and at least seven others (Presidential Statement adopted September 20; letter sent to the Secretary-General on September 21); and
- December 12 assassination of General Francois el-Hajj of the Lebanese Armed Forces and others (Presidential Statement adopted December 12; letter sent to the Secretary-General on December 14).

Pursuant to Resolution 1644 (2005), which acknowledged the Lebanese government’s request that those responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri be tried by a tribunal of an international character, the Secretary-General issued a report on March 21, 2006, in which he requested the Security Council’s authorization to begin negotiations with the Government of Lebanon aimed at establishing such a tribunal. The Security Council authorized the Secretary General to negotiate such an agreement in Resolution 1664, unanimously adopted on March 29, 2006. On September 6, 2006, the UN Legal Counsel presented a draft Agreement, which included a draft Statute, to the Lebanese Prime Minister and to the Minister of Justice of Lebanon for their consideration. On November 21, 2006, the Security Council approved the Tribunal documents. However, the Lebanese Speaker of Parliament refused to convene a session of Parliament, effectively preventing the Lebanese government from ratifying the Agreement.

According to press reports in early April 2007, 70 members of the Lebanese Parliament – representing enough votes to approve the Tribunal documents – wrote the Secretary-General expressing their desire, given the ongoing political impasse in Lebanon and the Speaker of the Parliament’s refusal to convene a parliamentary session, for the Security Council to bring the Tribunal into effect. On April 17, UN Legal Adviser Nicolas Michel

arrived in Beirut to engage in a dialogue with Lebanese officials regarding the ratification of the Agreement on the establishment of a tribunal.

On May 14, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora sent a letter to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noting that “the Lebanese Government believes that the time has come for the Security Council to help make the Special Tribunal for Lebanon a reality.” The letter asked the Secretary-General to “put before the Security Council [the Lebanese government’s] request that the Special Tribunal be put into effect.” However, Lebanese President Emile Lahoud sent the Secretary-General a letter on May 17, which said that the Siniora government was “devoid of legitimacy” and argued against Security Council action to bring the Tribunal Agreement into force.

On May 30, 2007, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1757, which decided that the provisions of the Tribunal Agreement would enter into force on June 10, 2007, unless the Government of Lebanon provided notification before that date of compliance with the requirements for entry into force. The Government of Lebanon did not provide such notification, and the Tribunal Agreement thus entered into force on June 10, 2007.

The Secretary-General issued his first report on the implementation of Resolution 1757 on September 4, 2007. The report, which was welcomed by the Security Council in a press statement on September 19, detailed progress made in establishing the Tribunal, including securing agreement from the Government of The Netherlands to host the Tribunal. On October 16, the Secretary-General sent a letter to the Security Council noting his intention to appoint Judge Mohamed Amin El Mahdi of Egypt, Judge Erik Mose of Norway, and Mr. Nicolas Michel, UN Legal Counsel, to the panel charged with selecting the judges and prosecutors for the Tribunal.

On September 28, 2007, the United States donated \$5 million to help cover start up and first year costs of the Tribunal’s operations. The United States strongly supports the efforts of UNIIIC and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and is committed to seeing those responsible for the assassination of Rafiq Hariri and others brought to justice.

UN Interim Force in Lebanon

UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in March 1978, in response to the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon following a Palestinian Liberation Organization attack inside Israel. UNIFIL’s mandate included confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, assisting the Government of Lebanon in restoring its effective authority, and contributing to the restoration of international peace and security in the region. In a report to the Security Council in 2000, the Secretary-General asserted that UNIFIL had essentially completed two of the three parts of its mandate, the remaining task being the restoration of international peace and security.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, adopted on August 11, 2006, expanded UNIFIL’s authorized force strength to a maximum of 15,000 troops, which remains the same under the current UN Security Council Resolution

1773. It also provided that, in addition to UNIFIL's existing mandate under Resolutions 425 and 426, UNIFIL would monitor the cessation of hostilities called for in the original resolutions; accompany and support the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as they deployed throughout the South, including along the Blue Line, as Israel withdrew its armed forces from Lebanon, coordinating these activities with the Government of Lebanon and the Government of Israel; extend its assistance to help ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons; assist the LAF in taking steps toward the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of armed personnel, assets, and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL; and assist the Government of Lebanon, at its request, in securing its borders and other points of entry.

Though UNIFIL is not authorized to search vehicles or private domiciles for weapons unless requested to do so by the Lebanese Armed Forces, if UNIFIL finds weapons in plain sight, or discovers caches of weapons according to the rules of engagement, UNIFIL is required to turn them over to the LAF as soon as possible. In 2007, UNIFIL discovered: 39 bunkers, 54 rockets, 84 grenades, 277 bombs of various types, 137 cases of flares, 27 mortars, eight booby traps, six mines, two rifles, and 58 nondescript shells.

Throughout 2007, UNIFIL continued to clear the numerous minefields throughout southern Lebanon. According to the Belgian contingent, as many as 800,000 unexploded ordnance (UXO) devices and possibly more still remain. UNIFIL is clearing approximately 50 square meters of land per day. Thus far, civilian contractor teams have cleared approximately 110,000 UXO, and UNIFIL teams, like the Belgian teams, have cleared approximately 25,000.

In 2007, UNIFIL provided needed medical, dental, and veterinary assistance through the entire UNIFIL area of operation. UNIFIL has provided numerous quick impact projects including: hospital rehabilitation, sanitation, generators for schools, well and water pump installation, LAF dining facility construction, furniture for public schools, streetlights, and social centers. UNIFIL has also sponsored numerous cultural and support activities. Additionally, UNIFIL works alongside Lebanese national projects.

On April 17, the United States joined consensus with other UN Security Council members to issue a Presidential Statement welcoming the progress that had been made in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, including the completion of the second phase of UNIFIL's deployment, and the Secretary General's intent to dispatch the Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team (LIBAT) to assess the monitoring of the Lebanon-Syria border. The Presidential Statement also expressed the Council's deep concern about statements made by Hizballah's Secretary-General regarding Lebanese authorities' seizure of a truckload of arms on February 8, 2007.

On June 18, the United States joined with other members of the UN Security Council to issue a press statement condemning the June 17 rocket attack launched against Israel from southern Lebanon.

In June 2007, an explosion in the vicinity of Khiam hit a Spanish battalion patrol, comprised of two armored personnel carriers. Six UNIFIL personnel were killed and two others injured. Preliminary findings indicate that the explosion was caused by a remote-controlled car bomb, which hit the second of the two armored vehicles. The UN Secretary-General issued a statement condemning the attack in the strongest possible terms. Lebanese authorities, including President Lahoud, Prime Minister Siniora and the leadership of the LAF, echoed the condemnation. The United States joined with UN Security Council members to issue a Presidential Statement on June 25, condemning the bombing.

On August 3, the UN Security Council issued a Presidential Statement reiterating its commitment to full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and taking note of the Government of Lebanon's request for the Council to renew UNIFIL's mandate.

UN Security Council Resolution 1773, adopted on August 24, 2007, commended the positive role of UNIFIL and the LAF in establishing a new strategic environment. The swift and effective deployment of the expanded UNIFIL and its activities to date have proven critical in preventing a recurrence of hostilities across the Blue Line and in establishing a strong military presence in Southern Lebanon. The effectiveness of UNIFIL has hinged on the will of troop contributors to enforce the mandate aggressively.

As of December 31, 2007, UNIFIL had 11,563 troops, with Italy, France, Spain, and India serving as the largest troop contributing countries. As of December 31, 2007, UNIFIL's maritime force consisted of 15 ships and four helicopters in coordination with two LAF navy boats. The maritime area of interest was 12,000 square nautical miles, while the area of maritime operations was 5,000 square nautical miles.

UN Truce Supervision Organization

In 2007, the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) continued to maintain a stabilizing presence in the region, including military observers and administrative staff to support the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. UNTSO personnel maintained their positions at their patrol bases to fulfill their mandate requirements. At Egypt's request, the mission also continued to provide a small monitoring team to patrol the Sinai.

UNTSO was the first peacekeeping mission organized by the United Nations. In 1948, UNTSO was established under UN Security Council Resolution 50 to supervise the truce called for by the Council at the end of the British mandate in Palestine. Since then, the Council has entrusted UNTSO with a variety of tasks, including supervising the implementation and

observance of the general agreements between Israel and its four Arab neighbors—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Following the 1967 Middle East War, UNTSO assumed cease-fire monitoring responsibilities in the Israel-Syria sector and the Suez Canal Zone. In 1972, a similar operation was established in southern Lebanon. Unarmed UNTSO military observers were directed to assist UN peacekeeping forces deployed in the Sinai (1973), on the Golan Heights (1974), as well as in southern Lebanon (1978).

As of December 31, 2007, UNTSO had 153 military observers, including three United States personnel.

UN Disengagement Observer Force

The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 350 of May 31, 1974, in the aftermath of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. UNDOF observes the implementation of the Israel-Syria Disengagement Agreement and serves U.S. national security interests by maintaining confidence levels and preventing the escalation of tensions between Israel and Syria. The Security Council extends UNDOF's mandate at six-month intervals, with the last renewal authorized by the Security Council on December 15, 2007.

UNDOF's mission in 2007 remained focused on monitoring the cease-fire between Israel and Syria, supervising the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights, and monitoring the areas of separation and limitation between the two countries. In carrying out its mandate, UNDOF is also assisted by military observers from the UN Troop Supervision Organization (UNTSO) based in Jerusalem. In 2007, the security situation in UNDOF's area of operations remained generally calm, though the Secretary-General reported to the Council in June and December that the situation in the Middle East was tense and likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive peace settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached. Syrian government officials made statements in fall 2006 hinting at a willingness to retake the Golan Heights from Israel by force.

In 2007, UNDOF continued to operate close to the area of separation, with two base camps, 44 permanently manned positions, and 11 observation posts. UNDOF maintains an area of separation, which is some 80 kilometers long and varies in width between approximately 10 kilometers in the center to less than one kilometer in the extreme south. In addition, the Force operates patrols by day and night. The Force is assisted by the military observers of Observer Group Golan.

UNDOF continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for mail and the passage of persons through the area of separation. Within the means available, medical treatment is provided to the local population on request.

In UNDOF's area of operation, especially in the area of separation, minefields continue to pose a threat to personnel and local inhabitants. The

Force supported the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

UN Security Council Resolution 1729 (2007) renewed UNDOF's mandate for six months, until June 30, 2008. As of December 31, 2007, UNDOF had 1,047 troops assigned but no U.S. military personnel. UN-assessed costs for UNDOF in 2007 totaled \$41.6 million. The U.S. share totaled \$8.9 million.

South Asia

Afghanistan

The United States continued to work through the United Nations and with the international community in pursuit of a sovereign, stable, democratic, and prosperous Afghanistan. Afghans were supportive of the international presence, both civilian and military, but difficult challenges remained. Violence continued to increase in the south, the east, and in Kabul during the spring and summer of 2007. In response, Afghan authorities and international partners continued to integrate security operations with economic revitalization, infrastructure development, better governance, public diplomacy, counter-narcotics activities, and cooperation with Pakistan.

The Security Council established the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Resolution 1401 (2002) with a mandate to facilitate implementation of the Bonn Agreement, which established provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions. The Security Council on March 23, 2007, passed Resolution 1746, updating and renewing UNAMA's mandate for one year. The mandate contained six main elements:

- Providing political and strategic advice for the peace process, including strengthening emerging democratic institutions;
- Providing good offices, as appropriate;
- Assisting the Government of Afghanistan in the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact, and co-chairing the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB);
- Promoting human rights through an independent role in monitoring human rights violations and capacity-building of national institutions;
- Providing technical assistance in sectors where the United Nations has a demonstrated comparative advantage and expertise, including disbanding illegal armed groups and support to the Independent Electoral Commission; and
- Managing all United Nations humanitarian relief, recovery, reconstruction and development activities in Afghanistan.

UNAMA is a Special Political Mission directed and supported by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and funded by the UN regular budget. With strong U.S. support, UNAMA's priorities in 2007 included strengthening Afghan institutions; increasing coordination among the Afghan Government, the United Nations, and the international community; and building the capacity of the Afghan Government's administration at all levels including the institutionalization of good governance, the rule of law, and security.

Security is mainly the responsibility of the UN-mandated, NATO-led, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). ISAF's mission is to assist Afghanistan and the international community in maintaining security. During 2007, ISAF's five regional commands continued to coordinate security operations in all parts of the country with the Afghan National Army (ANA). ISAF also has responsibility for the 26 Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), 12 of which are led by the United States. Separately from ISAF, the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) continued its focus on counter-terrorism operations. Afghan, U.S., and international forces continued to promote a counterinsurgency strategy through improved regional security and stability, good governance, and greater economic development.

Afghan National Security Forces are comprised of the ANA, the Afghan National Police (ANP), and the National Directorate of Security (NDS). The United States coordinated police and justice-sector training with UNAMA. The international community pays ANP salaries through the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOFTA), which is administered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and to which the United States is a principal donor. The ANA continued to expand in size, improve its capabilities, and take on more responsibility for operations alongside Coalition forces. Disarmament efforts in Afghanistan are ongoing, carried out by the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) program formally launched in March 2005, with Japan as the lead donor nation. In June 2007, Afghanistan and the international community agreed to transition day-to-day operations of DIAG from the Afghan New Beginnings Program (ANBP) under UNDP to a special cell within the Ministry of Interior.

In coordination with UNAMA, the United States also built over 3,500 kilometers of national and provincial roads. Several multi-national projects were underway to build Afghanistan's hydro and electrical power systems. Education and health care are also U.S. and UN priorities. Over 5.4 million children attended school, and approximately 80% of the population now has access to basic health services.

After a decrease in poppy cultivation in 2005, Afghanistan produced record poppy crops in 2006 and 2007, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Afghan Government and its international partners began implementing a long-term, integrated strategy in 2006 to combat the narcotics industry. UNAMA's Rule of Law Unit established the International

Coordination Group for Justice Reform (ICGJR) in 2006, co-chaired with Italy, which resulted in much-improved coordination among donors' justice programs. In July 2007, the United Nations and the Italian and Afghan Governments jointly chaired the international Conference on Rule of Law in Afghanistan in Rome. The conference laid down detailed joint recommendations for the development of rule of law in Afghanistan, including the preparation of: a consolidated National Justice Sector Strategy (NJSS, to be part of the ANDS) and including the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, and the Office of the Attorney General; a National Justice Program (NJP), which would implement the NJSS; and a Provincial Justice Coordination Mechanism (PJCM), which would help communicate and coordinate justice reform initiatives between Kabul and the provinces. The PJCM would be supervised by UNAMA, and the PJCM coordinators would be located at UNAMA offices in key population centers around the country. All of these efforts were due to be finalized in the first half of 2008.

The United States also funds the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist returning refugees in Afghanistan. More than five million Afghans have returned home since 2002, making it the most successful and largest refugee repatriation in UNHCR's history. Returns slowed to approximately 350,000 in 2007, due to the security situation and limited absorption capacity in Afghanistan. UNHCR will continue to support returns, but is also looking to stabilize returnee populations so they do not recycle back to Iran and Pakistan. UNHCR continued to discuss the renegotiation of two tripartite agreements, one among itself, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the other among itself, Afghanistan and Iran, to ensure that any repatriation would be voluntary and durable and that any refugees remaining in these countries of asylum would continue to receive protection and limited assistance.

India/Pakistan

The UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was deployed in January 1949 under United Nations Security Council Resolution 47 (1948) to supervise the cease-fire agreed between India and Pakistan in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. In July 1949, India and Pakistan signed the Karachi Agreement establishing a ceasefire line to be supervised by UN observers. In 1971, hostilities broke out between India and Pakistan. In 1972, following a ceasefire, both agreed on a Line of Control which UNMOGIP monitors. UNMOGIP's functions are to observe and report, investigate complaints of ceasefire violations, and submit findings to the parties and to the UN Secretary-General.

Since the 1972 Agreement, India has taken the position that UNMOGIP's mandate has lapsed. Pakistan did not accept India's position. Given the disagreement between the parties on UNMOGIP's mandate, the UN Secretary-General adopted the position that only a decision of the UN Security Council can terminate the mandate. The military authorities of Pakistan have continued to lodge complaints with UNMOGIP concerning ceasefire

violations; recent reports have indicated Pakistan's interest that the Mission continues. The military authorities of India have lodged no complaints since January 1972 and have restricted the activities of the UN observers on the Indian side of the Line of Control, while continuing to provide accommodation, transport, and other facilities to UNMOGIP.

UNMOGIP sustained its core objective in 2007: keeping peace between India and Pakistan by supervising the Kashmir region. An escalation of violence in Kashmir could have serious consequences given both countries' possession of nuclear weapons. UNMOGIP's mandate is long-term and will not be completed until ownership of Kashmir is decided and a cease-fire is no longer necessary. Political talks on Kashmir between India and Pakistan have proceeded erratically over the past several years. It is in the U.S. interest that tensions between these two countries not escalate because of the threat of a possible nuclear conflict between them. The presence of UNMOGIP forces monitoring the cease-fire contributes to the stability of Kashmir and serves as a constant reminder to the people in the region that the international community is concerned with promoting peace in the area.

As of December 31, 2007, UNMOGIP had 44 military observers, with the Republic of Korea, Croatia, and Denmark providing the largest number of military observers to the Mission. No U.S. personnel served in UNMOGIP.

Nepal

The United States on January 23, 2007, joined other Security Council members in unanimously adopting UN Security Council Resolution 1740, which established the UN Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). UNMIN's mandate is to monitor and manage the weapons and troops of the Nepalese Army and the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (CPN-M)); monitor cease-fire arrangements stipulated in the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); and assist in the preparation and monitoring of the upcoming elections for the Constituent Assembly. Secretary-General Ban on February 6 appointed Ian Martin (U.K.) as his Special Representative and Chief of UNMIN.

On May 31, 2007, the seven parties in Nepal's coalition government agreed that the Constituent Assembly election should be held no later than mid-December 2007. The CPN-M withdrew from the Seven-Party Alliance Government on September 18 to press for a list of demands that included the abolition of the monarchy. After protracted negotiations, the parties agreed on December 15 to reschedule the Constituent Assembly election for April 10, 2008, and on December 23 reached a 23-point agreement as a basis for re-establishing cooperation among the parties. In Security Council discussions, the United States consistently called on the parties to refrain from violence, implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and conduct the elections as soon as possible in a free and fair environment.

The United States offered its full support to UNMIN in carrying out its mandate. UNMIN's Arms Monitoring Office established the Joint

Monitoring Coordinating Committee with the participation of senior Nepal Army and CPN-M leaders. The Committee met 59 times in 2007 and proved to be an effective mechanism for dispute resolution. On December 23, UNMIN completed verifying the occupants of Maoist cantonments, as called for in the CPA. Despite delays in the electoral calendar, UNMIN's Electoral Assistance Office continued to provide throughout 2007 technical expertise on logistics and security matters related to the elections.

Africa

Burundi

In his May and June 2007 reports on Burundi, UN Secretary-General Ban noted that while Burundi had made progress toward the consolidation of peace after its emergence from a 12-year civil war, the political and security situation remained fragile and required the sustained engagement of the country's international partners. The United States supported the Secretary-General's establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) on January 1, 2007, for an initial period of 12 months, pursuant to Resolution 1719 (2006).

On May 30, 2007, the United States joined consensus in the adoption of a Security Council Presidential Statement on Burundi (S/PRST/2007/16) that welcomed the Burundi Government's recent corrective steps aimed at promoting dialogue, national reconciliation, and social harmony. The statement welcomed the resumption of the efforts of the Joint Verification Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) to address and remove the obstacles in the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement. It encouraged the Government of Burundi to remain committed to finding a solution to the political deadlock and urged the Forces Nationales de Libération (Palipehutu-FNL) to fulfill expeditiously their obligations under the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement. The Security Council welcomed the establishment of BINUB to provide support to the peace consolidation process. It also urged the Government of Burundi to intensify its efforts on all aspects of reforming the security sector and addressing the issue of human rights abuses committed by members of the security services, including by bringing perpetrators to justice.

The United States supported the press statements on Burundi adopted by the Security Council on June 21 and November 28, in which Council members expressed appreciation for the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in helping Burundi to achieve long-term peace and stability, urged the Palipehutu-FNL to return to the JVMM without delay or preconditions, and called on both parties to refrain from any action that might lead to a resumption of hostilities. These press statements welcomed the Government's efforts to promote dialogue, national reconciliation, and social harmony in Burundi, and called on all political stakeholders there to maintain the spirit of consensus-building and inclusiveness that had enabled a successful transition. Council members also welcomed the agreement reached during the June 17 talks in Dar es Salaam between the President of Burundi and the leader of the

Palipehutu-FNL. The resumption of the dialogue represented a major milestone on the way to the consolidation of peace in Burundi.

On December 19, the United States supported Security Council Resolution 1791 (2007) to extend until December 31, 2008, the mandate of BINUB, as set out in Resolution 1719 (2006). The resolution also called on the Palipehutu-FNL to return to the JVMM without delay or preconditions and to release immediately all children associated with it. It also called on both parties to the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement to refrain from any action that might lead to a resumption of hostilities and to resolve outstanding issues in a spirit of cooperation, including by agreeing on a road map of sequenced steps and clear time frames for the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement.

Chad

On September 25, 2007, the UN Security Council approved Resolution 1778, to establish the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), a peacekeeping operation in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR). The Security Council envisioned MINURCAT as primarily a humanitarian police operation, intended to protect refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), conflict-affected Chadians, and humanitarian operations. At the time MINURCAT was established, Chad hosted an estimated 240,000 refugees from Darfur and 46,000 from the Central African Republic. CAR hosted an additional 2,500 refugees from Darfur. Both Chad and the CAR had internal conflicts and were subject to armed incursions from Darfur, further contributing to instability in the sub-region. At the time MINURCAT was established, 180,000 Chadians were internally displaced, as were over 100,000 Central Africans (though most were not in the northeastern region where MINURCAT was to deploy).

Resolution 1778 authorized MINURCAT up to 300 civilian police, mandated to train and advise a new special unit of the Chadian National Police to protect vulnerable civilians in eastern Chad. MINURCAT was also authorized to establish a multidimensional office of civilian and up to 50 military personnel to maintain a liaison with host country governments, other UN entities in the region, and the EU force known as EUFOR. EUFOR was to consist of 3,000-4,000 troops contributed by EU countries. While EUFOR had a UN mandate to provide force protection to MINURCAT in both countries, EUFOR was to remain under EU command and control and was not to be paid for out of UN assessments. MINURCAT had a mandate of one year, beginning on September 25, 2007, and was, for practical reasons, to deploy after EUFOR had done so. EUFOR's mandate was also set for one year, to begin on the date when the EU declared that it had reached its initial operating capacity (IOC). As 2007 drew to a close, IOC had not yet been achieved.

On October 25, a "definitive peace accord" between the Government of Chad and the three main rebel groups – Rally of Forces for Change (RFC), Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD), and the UFDD-Fundamental – was signed. This accord collapsed when fighting between

Chadian forces and the rebel groups broke out in the Guereda region of eastern Chad in November and continued into December. On December 14, the three rebel groups announced a joint pact, forming an alliance intent on toppling the government headed by President Deby.

In his December 17 report, the Secretary-General said that 30 UN civilian police were in Chad and recruiting for the Special Unit of the Chadian police, in accordance with the MINURCAT mandate. This report also noted that an additional 40 police had been recruited and that half of the authorized 50 military observers were scheduled to deploy in January to begin establishing liaisons with the governments of Chad and CAR as well as with the various UN agencies operating in the region.

The initial deadline for deployment, December 20, passed with no significant EUFOR presence in the country. As they continued assembling the EUFOR force for deployment, EUFOR officials announced that they were encountering difficulties procuring the necessary helicopter units. MINURCAT's delayed commencement was largely due to the absence of the EUFOR force.

At year's end, MINURCAT and EUFOR were still deploying. According to UN statistics, 29 civilian police and three military observers had deployed to Chad by December 31.

Central African Republic

The UN Security Council continued addressing the serious situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) during 2007. The CAR continued to be plagued by political insecurity, conflict, and significant humanitarian needs, although the situation improved somewhat in the second half of the year, when the Government of the CAR signed a peace agreement with the majority of rebel groups. Chronic conflict, poor infrastructure, and economic mismanagement hampered the CAR's economic development. The country also faced increasing food insecurity, HIV/AIDs, and decreasing life expectancy. Over 300,000 Central Africans remained displaced throughout the region, including 197,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 80,000 refugees in Chad, Cameroon, and Darfur. Between July and September 2007, the Central African Armed Forces (FARC) disarmed over 150 fighters fleeing the fighting in Chad and Darfur. On November 30, the Government and opposition parties of the CAR agreed on the text of a decree establishing a preparatory committee for a national dialogue, and the last remaining armed rebel group, the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD), began discussions with the government with the goal of signing a peace agreement.

Throughout 2007, the UN Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) remained actively engaged in supporting the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and gain national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions, and facilitate mobilization of international political support and resources for reconstruction and economic recovery. The

Office also worked to promote domestic public awareness of human rights issues and to monitor developments in this field.

On July 3, 2007, then-Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) General Lamine Cissé (Senegal) reported on the situation in the CAR to the Security Council, which reiterated its appreciation for his role as head of BONUCA. (Gen. Cissé retired as SRSG for the CAR in August 2007 and was replaced on September 12 by François Lonseny Fall (Ghana).) The Council released a press statement (SC/9069/AFR/1556) that expressed its concern at the continuing volatility of the security situation, in particular banditry and the activities of armed groups. It expressed appreciation to the members of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa for action on the Community's Multinational Force in the Central African Republic (FOMUC), as well as to the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) for their political and financial support. It also called on the authorities to fight impunity and ensure the full implementation of the international obligations that the CAR had accepted concerning the protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. The statement expressed serious concern at the human rights situation in the CAR and reports of disproportionate use of force by Government forces. It also condemned violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by armed groups and by some elements of the FARC.

On August 27, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/30) expressing concern about insecurity in eastern Chad and northeastern CAR and encouraging the Secretary-General and the EU to prepare "a multi-dimensional presence" in the two countries, in cooperation with their governments and the AU.

This presence was established on September 25, 2007, by Resolution 1778, which created the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) to provide humanitarian aid and protection to refugees in eastern Chad and northeastern CAR, in liaison with the two governments and that of Sudan, the AU, BONUCA, the hybrid UN-AU mission in Darfur (UNAMID), FOMUC and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD). Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the resolution authorized the European Union to deploy a force (EUFOR) for one year from the time of its first deployment to protect refugees, humanitarian aid delivery, and UN personnel and facilities. It urged Sudan, Chad, and the CAR not to allow their territories to be used as a base to undermine others, pressed stakeholders in Chad and the CAR to engage in a national dialogue, and stressed the need to cooperate with the United Nations Children's Fund in ending recruitment of children into armed combat.

The December 12, 2007, press statement (SC/9196/AFR/1631) by the members of the Security Council continued to express concern about the ongoing insecurity in the CAR, condemned ongoing violence by armed groups, and called on all those groups to disarm without delay. It welcomed the extension of the mandate of FOMUC and the Force's intention to deploy

troops in the north-west of the country to respond to the growing insecurity in that area. The Security Council also welcomed the imminent deployment of EUFOR to eastern Chad and north-eastern CAR. It urged the Government of the CAR to hold the national dialogue as soon as possible and called for the full participation of all the country's political and civil society stakeholders. The Security Council also called on the Government of the CAR to take determined action to protect human rights, promote the rule of law, put an end to the widespread culture of impunity that prevailed in the country, and redouble its efforts to improve public governance. The Council welcomed national and international efforts to investigate crimes allegedly committed in the CAR in 2002 and 2003 and expressed support for the Special Representative and for BONUCA, the mandate of which the Council had just extended for another year.

By the end of 2007, the first MINURCAT personnel had deployed to Chad and planning was underway for a small MINURCAT presence to be co-located with BONUCA in Bangui, according to a report by the Secretary-General's office (S/2007/739). The Security Council established a MINURCAT Trust Fund to cover the mission's expenses, estimated to be around \$23 million, of which around \$14 million had been pledged by the European Commission, Japan, Belgium, and Norway. The United States contributed \$2 million towards MINURCAT salaries. EUFOR encountered unexpected delays in force generation, due to a lack of committed resources and rebel activity in the east, and had not yet begun to deploy by year's end.

Cote d'Ivoire

The UN Security Council established the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in Resolution 1528 on February 27, 2004. On January 10, 2007 the Security Council extended UNOCI's mandate until June 30 by its Resolution 1739. Throughout 2007, UNOCI continued to implement its mandate, including conducting patrols throughout the country to monitor the security situation and along the border with Guinea and Liberia. Nationwide presidential and parliamentary elections were not held as scheduled in 2007. President Laurent Gbagbo and Forces Nouvelles (FN) leader Guillaume Soro signed an agreement in Ouagadougou on March 4 that appeared to give some impetus to the peace process, but only limited progress was made during the year.

On January 17, President Gbagbo convened the first Council of Ministers meeting since the Security Council had endorsed the African Union Peace and Security Council's (AUPSC) extension of the peace process in November 2006. While FN leader Soro did not attend, a coalition of seven opposition groups endorsed direct dialogue between Soro and Gbagbo. A January 19 summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also endorsed direct dialogue between the two leaders and authorized incoming ECOWAS Chairman Compaore (Burkina Faso) to facilitate talks. Soro traveled to Ouagadougou a few days later to discuss modalities for dialogue with Compaore.

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Pierre Schori (Sweden) resigned in January. Principal Deputy SRSG Abou Moussa (Chad) was acting SRSG until the UN Secretary-General appointed Choi Young-Jin (Republic of Korea) as SRSG on October 18.

On March 4, President Gbagbo and FN leader Soro signed the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA). Under the OPA, voter registration and identification would resume, allowing elections to take place within 10 months. This new agreement extended the October 31 deadline endorsed by the African Union (AU) and Security Council in 2006. The Ivorian Army and FN would then partially merge, in anticipation of the formation of a new national army. The plan called for disarmament of militia groups, and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants. The United Nations and France would gradually withdraw their troops from the Zone of Confidence. President Gbagbo issued a decree shortly after signature of the OPA establishing a joint command center for Ivorian and FN troops as a first step towards establishing a national army.

The UN Security Council held consultations on Cote d'Ivoire on March 14. On March 19, the AUPSC issued a communiqué endorsing the OPA. Gbagbo and Soro returned to Ouagadougou to hammer out details of a power-sharing deal; Soro was named Prime Minister on April 4.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Hedi Annabi took a UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations team to Abidjan in April to review UNOCI's size and tasks. Following the signing of the OPA, the Zone of Confidence was officially dismantled; UN and French troops pulled back to observation posts.

On April 7, the new cabinet was announced. Most key portfolios, including Interior (both internal security and territorial administration), Defense, and Finance, went to President Gbagbo's party. Soro's FN gained five ministries (Tourism and Handicrafts, Solidarity and War Victims, Justice and Human Rights, African Integration, and Communication). The other opposition parties received the rest of the positions.

The International Working Group (IWG) met in Abidjan on April 13. Delegates agreed to allow ECOWAS and the AU to make recommendations to the Security Council on whether the IWG should be dissolved or whether it could continue to serve a useful function in the peace process.

The OPA called for the establishment of "mobile courts" to issue birth certificates to unregistered persons as a preliminary step in identification and voter registration. The process got under way sporadically over the summer and began wider operations in September.

The Secretary-General issued his regular report on Cote d'Ivoire on May 14, which the Security Council reviewed on May 18. The report contained recommendations on how the United Nations could continue to support the Ivorian peace process, particularly in light of the OPA. There were no significant changes in UNOCI's mandate. UNOCI continued to

provide security in the area dividing the government and Forces Nouvelles, although the Zone of Confidence had been dismantled and a “green line” established. UNOCI continued to provide support for security sector reform. The mission also maintained its role in attempting to disarm and demobilize militias and was involved in the preparation for and conduct of elections and the restoration of government authority.

In May, the French force (Licorne) reduced its strength by 500, leaving a force of around 2,500. A ceremony was held in Guiglo in western Cote d’Ivoire on May 19, during which militia groups turned in approximately 100 small arms. While the weapons turned in were not significant -- mainly hunting rifles -- the ceremony had an important symbolic value. All parties, including President Gbagbo, attended.

On June 29, UN Security Council Resolution 1763 rolled over UNOCI’s mandate unchanged until July 16. This technical rollover allowed some additional time for clarification of details on implementation of the March OPA.

Also on June 29, Prime Minister Soro’s airplane was hit by rocket-propelled grenades while landing in Bouake, the principal city in the northern area held by the FN. Soro was unhurt, but five members of his party were killed and at least a dozen other people were wounded. UNOCI provided security for Soro at his residence in Bouake. UNOCI, Licorne, and the Ivorian army stepped up security precautions in Abidjan. Although there was some firing at the airport immediately after the attack, possibly by security forces, there was no subsequent fighting. The Security Council immediately issued a Presidential Statement condemning the attack and stressing the Council’s continuing support for the OPA. There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the attack. President Gbagbo later asked the United Nations to help investigate the attack. The United Nations declined to open an official investigation under UN auspices, but sent a team of experts to Cote d’Ivoire in early September to assist the Ivorian authorities.

A Security Council delegation visited Abidjan on June 18 to underline the Council’s support for the peace process. On June 20 Security Council Resolution 1761 renewed the mandate of the Cote d’Ivoire Group of Experts until October 31, 2007. The Group of Experts released its periodic report on June 11; it found no gross violations of the arms embargo and diamond ban, but a number of its inspections and those conducted by UNOCI were obstructed, particularly by Government forces. The Group of Experts also noted a continuing lack of transparency surrounding the management of the most lucrative industries, including petroleum and cocoa. The Sanctions Committee wrote to quasi-governmental agencies operating in the coffee and cocoa sectors to underline that Resolution 1761 (2007) required reporting on revenue management. Despite repeated attempts, the Group of Experts was unable to meet with the agencies or to obtain explanation on use of levies on cocoa and coffee collected from 2001 to 2006.

On July 16, the Council adopted Resolution 1765, which extended UNOCI's mandate until January 15, 2008, specifying that this extension was intended to support elections within the timetable called for in the OPA. Resolution 1765 also endorsed the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report of May 14 and authorized a Contact Group to replace the IWG as the follow-on mechanism for the peace agreement. The resolution also called for certification of each stage of preparations and conduct of the elections. It transferred the authority for this certification from the High Representative for Elections to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General; the High Representative position was abolished.

On July 20, UNOCI suspended and confined to barracks an entire Moroccan battalion, pending investigation of allegations that some of its members were having sex with under-age girls. A team of UN investigators traveled to Cote d'Ivoire the following week, accompanied by several senior Moroccan military representatives. Morocco promised to punish any personnel found guilty of the charges; in 2005, Morocco had removed and disciplined the commander of its UNOCI contingent when similar charges were made.

On August 8, eight Ivorian defense and security forces personnel were deployed to Kopingou province to establish the fifth out of six mixed gendarmerie units provided for in the OPA to maintain law and order in the former Zone of Confidence.

On September 4, Burkina Faso President Compaore convened a meeting in Ouagadougou to review implementation of key points, including the process to identify and issue documents to Ivorian citizens and steps to extend State authority. The mobile courts began work on September 25.

The Group of Experts issued a report in October. On October 29, Security Council Resolution 1782 renewed the Cote d'Ivoire diamond sanctions and the arms embargo for a year.

By mid-November about a quarter of the mobile courts had been established. The Ivorian Government designated French technical operator Societe d'Applications Generales Electriques et Mecaniques (SAGEM) to produce national identity cards.

Political parties met in November to discuss a code of conduct for the elections; however, leaders of the ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party declined to sign the agreement. According to a "complementary" agreement (supplementing the OPA) signed by Gbagbo and Soro in Ouagadougou on November 28, an Integrated Command Center would begin "regrouping" former combatants and disarming and dismantling militias by December 22. The two also agreed that civil service recruitment would begin by December 22; taxation and customs officials would be redeployed to the north by December 30; and the rest of the bureaucracy would be deployed to the north by January 30, 2008.

Eight new mobile courts became operational in December, for a total of 33 teams deployed. The courts issued 84,603 certificates by the end of the year. In mid-December, the FN, after a 10-month interruption, resumed participation in meetings of the group of seven opposition parties. The political parties (including the Government party) agreed to sign an Electoral Code of Conduct. Preliminary steps, such as the Prime Minister's signature of a decree creating a new civil service, were taken to begin extending government authority.

There were two formal ceremonies on December 22 marking the beginning of regrouping of former combatants and disarmament of militias.

UNOCI's strength at the end of 2007 was 7,838 troops, 1,127 civilian police officers, and 195 military observers. UN assessments for UNOCI in 2007 totaled \$557.5 million. The U.S. share totaled \$123.6 million.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was established under Security Council Resolution 1258 (1999) to assist in implementing the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.) and the governments of Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

In early January, Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno and former Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari briefed the Security Council, saying that continued international involvement in the D.R.C. was crucial to stability not only in the country, but also for the region as a whole. Later in the month, Secretary-General Ban visited the D.R.C., where he held talks with MONUC peacekeepers and staff. Also in January, for the first time in history, MONUC chose 10 members from the National Congolese Police (PNC) to serve in other United Nations peacekeeping missions.

In February, MONUC dispatched additional forces to Bas-Congo in southwestern D.R.C., where protests against the outcome of a gubernatorial race sparked fighting between police and the radical traditional religious/political group Bunda Dia Kongo (BDK). The UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions (ACABQ) also carried out a week-long fact finding and evaluation mission to MONUC. On February 15, the Security Council extended MONUC's mandate for two months due to a technical issue.

In early March, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz paid a two-day visit to the D.R.C. On March 22-25, fighting broke out in Kinshasa between supporters of former Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba and Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) troops deployed to implement a deadline for the replacement of Bemba's personal security guards by Congolese police. On March 23, D.R.C. authorities issued an arrest warrant against Bemba for "high treason," but Bemba was given authorization by the D.R.C. Senate to depart for Portugal, where he also held citizenship. Later in the month, the World Bank

Board approved \$180 million to help rebuild Kinshasa. In northern D.R.C., more than 200 fighters loyal to Bemba handed in their weapons and agreed to join the regular army.

On April 3, the Security Council issued a presidential statement expressing grave concern at the loss of lives and regret at the destruction and pillaging during March 22-25 clashes between government forces and followers of Bemba. On April 6, the Congolese Parliament demanded an inquiry into the violence in Kinshasa. Also in April, the group of the Ituri militia Nationalist and Integrationalist Front (FNI) headed by Peter Karim was formally integrated into FARDC after handing over its weapons. On April 13, the Security Council rolled over the MONUC mandate until May 15, which allowed additional time for discussions over the new mandate. On April 22, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro visited the D.R.C., where she pledged continued UN support for the country's efforts to consolidate peace.

On May 2-3, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) William L. Swing met with various State Department officials including Assistant Secretary Kristen Silverberg and Deputy Secretary John Negroponte, National Security Council representatives, and members of Congress to discuss the force size and mandate of MONUC. In early May, MONUC announced that Karim agreed to the reintegration of 500 more FNI fighters into FARDC. On May 15, the Security Council extended the mandate of MONUC until December 31, 2007, maintaining its personnel strength. Later in the month, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported that Pakistani UN peacekeepers charged with disarming Congolese militia instead traded in gold and sold weapons to the groups. In a statement, MONUC confirmed that it had been aware of the allegations and noted that it had requested the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to open an investigation.

There were again press allegations in July that both Pakistani and Indian peacekeepers in MONUC had been involved in illegal gold trafficking. OIOS found evidence that Pakistani troops had been engaged in gold smuggling, but could not substantiate allegations that they had been trading arms and gold with rebel groups. OIOS also began investigating similar allegations against the Indian contingent in eastern Congo. The same month, the United Nations sent an audit team to Kinshasa to review management procedures, and the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women paid a 12-day working visit to the D.R.C.

On August 1, a mob attacked a MONUC military observer team site reportedly in reaction to rumors that MONUC, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were facilitating the return of Tutsi refugees to the area. On August 8, MONUC facilitated a meeting in Uganda between D.R.C. Chiefs of Staff and Ugandan armies, following a clash in early August on Lake Albert between the two armies. Six days later, Ugandan Foreign Minister Kutesa met with D.R.C. President Joseph Kabila in Kinshasa to defuse the tensions between

their countries. In late August, MONUC troops found at least six bodies buried at former military camps in North Kivu.

In late August and early September, MONUC intervened three times to facilitate a ceasefire in Masisi and Rutshuru, where clashes between the FARDC and dissident general Laurent Nkunda's Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) forces were taking place. On September 3, Rwandan Minister for Foreign Affairs Charles Murigande met with his D.R.C. counterpart, Mbusa Nyamwisi, in Kinshasa as part of a three-day visit aimed at consolidating relations, discussing the presence of ex-FAR-Interahamwe (former Rwandan Armed Forces) in the D.R.C., and the situation surrounding Nkunda. Additionally, John Holmes, UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, arrived in the D.R.C. for a five-day visit. Clashes in North Kivu between troops loyal to Nkunda and the FARDC ended with a cessation of hostilities on September 6. On September 8, MONUC Interim Force Commander Major General Bikram Singh and FARDC Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Kayembe carried out a joint security and humanitarian evaluation mission in North Kivu province. Three days later, the Security Council expressed its deep concern at the clashes in North Kivu, urged all parties to respect the ceasefire and initiate a dialogue, and asked Congolese authorities to redouble their efforts to seek a comprehensive political solution to address and resolve the root causes of tensions in the Kivus, particularly by convening a roundtable.

Between September 15-17, ministers from Burundi, the D.R.C., Rwanda, and Uganda met at the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission in Kampala, Uganda. During the meetings, ministers reaffirmed the core mission to end the threat to regional peace and security, and agreed to redouble efforts to achieve that objective. MONUC was present at the meetings. On September 18, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General William Swing marked the official launch in the D.R.C. of Resolution 1325, "Women, Peace and Security." On September 22, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ross Mountain went to Bunia, Ituri, where he addressed leaders of the three armed groups—the FNI, the Front for the Patriotic Resistance of Ituri (FRPI), and the Congolese Revolutionary Movement (MRC)—taking part in the phase III disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program. MONUC reported that the Ugandan Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) killed and wounded Congolese civilians after firing on a Congolese patrol vessel on Lake Albert on September 24. The confrontation followed an incident earlier in the day in which MONUC naval forces intercepted and subsequently released a Heritage Oil vessel carrying five civilians on the Congolese side of the demarcation line. On September 25, Swing visited Kananga to understand better the situation in Kasai Occidental province, and to find solutions to the problems posed by the Ebola epidemic to MONUC staff. In a speech to the UN General Assembly on September 27, Kabila stated that the D.R.C. needed the United Nations' help to disarm and repatriate foreign armed groups in its territory.

On October 9, SRSB Swing met with African Union ambassadors in Kinshasa to discuss MONUC's remaining challenges, including security sector reform (SSR), and to address continued instability in the Kivus. On October 17, Secretary-General Ban appointed Alan Doss of the United Kingdom as his Special Representative for the D.R.C. The same day, Swing, along with MONUC Force Commander Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye and the D.R.C. Ministers for Defense, Interior, and Humanitarian Affairs, met with ambassadors to the D.R.C. from the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and South Africa to discuss SSR, DDR, and the struggle to contain the FDLR. On October 24, the Secretary-General appointed Bacre Waly Ndiaye of Senegal as his other Deputy Special Representative for the D.R.C.

On November 5, some 40 people were wounded, including 25 peacekeepers, during demonstrations by civilians displaced by fighting in North Kivu. On the same day, MONUC transferred 16 senior commanders of Ituri armed groups to Kinshasa to join the regular army. On November 9, the Congolese and Rwandan governments signed the historic Nairobi Communiqué, in which the governments of the D.R.C. and Rwanda agreed on a common strategy against illegal armed groups in the D.R.C. On November 20, the Secretary-General issued a report on MONUC, in which he recommended extending the mandate for another year at current force levels and suggested that a drawdown plan could begin following local elections in 2008 and the achievement of additional benchmarks relating to security. On November 21, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement welcoming the Nairobi Communiqué. On November 27, one officer and 14 troops associated with Nkunda surrendered to MONUC forces, agreeing to integrate into FARDC. On November 29, SRSB Swing met with the Security Council to discuss the Secretary-General's report, the security situation in eastern Congo, and MONUC mandate renewal.

Beginning December 3, FARDC launched an offensive against the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). With logistical support from MONUC, the FARDC initially regained territory previously won by the RPF. However, after several days of intense fighting, RPF troops ultimately forced the FARDC into retreating from the strategic village of Mushake, 25 miles west of Goma, in an embarrassing defeat for the government. The heavy fighting displaced thousands.

Ethiopia/Eritrea

On January 16, the UN Security Council held consultations on the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), where members discussed four options for the Mission: reducing UNMEE's force size but maintaining its presence in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ); relocating support elements from Eritrea to Ethiopia; transforming UNMEE into an observer mission; and reducing UNMEE to a liaison mission. In a press interview on January 19, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki blamed "foreign intervention" for the stalled

peace process and asked the Secretary-General to end such intervention to move the peace process forward.

On January 24, the Secretary-General suggested extending UNMEE's mandate, and on January 30, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1741, approving a six-month extension of UNMEE's mandate until July 31, 2007 and reducing the number of troops from 2,300 to 1,700, while maintaining the authorized force ceiling and mandate. On February 9, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General Azouz Ennifar gave a 90-minute briefing to representatives of the diplomatic corps. One day later, UNMEE briefed the "Friends of UNMEE" and the Security Council on Resolution 1741.

On February 15, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi criticized the Security Council for failure to take action on Eritrea's deployment into the TSZ. On March 2, the UN News Center reported that Eritrea imposed more restrictions on UNMEE, further reducing its monitoring ability. On March 21, Eritrea expelled David Bax, the head of the UNMEE-Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC), for what the government called "repeated violations of Eritrean laws and regulations."

On April 13, the Permanent Representative of Eritrea sent a letter to the President of the Security Council addressing the Government of Eritrea's grievances over the border and the demarcation process. On April 30, the United Nations released the Secretary-General's Report on Ethiopia and Eritrea. The report dealt with recent developments in the area, progress in implementation of Resolution 1741, the work of the former Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC), the human rights situation, ongoing humanitarian activities, the Secretary-General's observations, and an annex written by Sir Elihu Lauterpacht, President of the EEBC.

On May 8, the Security Council issued a press statement that voiced concern over increased friction between Ethiopia and Eritrea and called on both Horn of Africa countries to refrain from violence and cooperate fully with UNMEE with a view to resuming the meetings of the Military Coordination Commission (MCC).

In early June, UNMEE troops reported incidents of threatening behavior from Eritrean Defense Force (EDF) members. On June 8, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum sent a letter to the Secretary-General highlighting Eritrea's militarization of the TSZ and continuing restrictions on UNMEE. On June 14, the Secretary-General wrote to Eritrean President Isaias and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles, offering his assistance in resolving the boundary impasse and moving toward normalized relations. On June 15, the Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs sent a letter to the President of the Security Council placing full responsibility on Ethiopia for the stalemate in the peace process.

The Secretary-General's July 18 report to the Security Council concluded that the military situation in the TSZ and the adjacent areas remained tense. On July 20, the EEBC sent a letter to the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) offering to meet with the Security Council if the latter believed this to be useful. DPKO recommended that the EEBC approach the Security Council directly but cautioned against mixing legal and political issues. The EEBC ultimately did not meet with the Security Council or other UN bodies. Five days later, Isaias asked China for help in breaking the border stand-off with Ethiopia. On July 30, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1767, which extended UNMEE's mandate until January 31, 2008.

In a September 17 interview broadcast by state-run Ethiopian television, Meles said that Eritrea must change its stance if the protracted border dispute between the two countries was to be resolved. A week prior, Ethiopia criticized the work of the EEBC, which had said its demarcation decision by map coordinates would become final at the end November 2007, unless the parties requested and enabled the EEBC to demarcate the boundary, and that the commission would then be dissolved. Earlier in the month, Eritrea promised to fulfill all requirements demanded by the EEBC, including lifting restrictions on UN peacekeepers and withdrawing its troops from the TSZ to the extent necessary to support demarcation if Ethiopia honored the 2002 Algiers Agreement.

On September 25, in a letter to his Eritrean counterpart, Seyoum said Addis Ababa would be forced "to consider its peaceful and legal options under international law" and that Ethiopia would be justified in terminating the Algiers Agreement in light of Eritrea's material breaches of the Agreement. The breaches included remilitarizing the TSZ, coordinating "terrorist activity," and imposing severe restrictions on UNMEE. Ethiopia forwarded the letter and supporting material to the Security Council.

On October 11, UN Secretary-General Ban called on Ethiopia and Eritrea to show maximum restraint and to abide by the Algiers Agreement. Through a spokesperson, Ban expressed particular concern over recent shooting incidents, as well as the building up of military forces in the border area. On October 23, the Eritrean Permanent Representative sent a letter to the President of the Security Council, which underscored that Eritrea would not accept dialogue with Ethiopia or normalization of relations between the parties as preconditions to border demarcation. Moreover, the letter contended that "virtual" border demarcation, instead of pillar emplacement, was inconsistent with the terms of the Algiers Agreement.

On November 1, the Secretary-General released his regular report on UNMEE, which expressed his continuing concerns about tensions along the border. On November 6, a spokesman from the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry stated that Ethiopia had no desire to return to war with Eritrea. However, Ethiopia requested that Eritrea pull its troops out of the TSZ and lift all restrictions on UNMEE. Three days later, Isaias met with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, and blamed the United Nations for the continuing crisis, alleging that UNMEE had provided cover for Ethiopia's continued occupation of Eritrean territory. On November 13, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement urging the

parties to implement without delay the 2002 delimitation decision of the EEBC, to avoid the use of force, and to comply with the commitments in the Algiers Agreements and relevant Security Council resolutions. In late November, Eritrea sent a letter to the Secretary-General stating that it did not reject virtual demarcation as was reported in the press, but instead saw virtual demarcation as a step toward physical demarcation. On November 30, the EEBC ended its substantive activities and the virtual demarcation decision became final by its terms. Ethiopia rejected the approach as inconsistent with international law and the Algiers Agreement.

On December 21, in response to a December 11 letter from Secretary-General Ban summarizing steps he was taking to resolve the impasse, Isaias wrote to the Security Council to underscore his view that Ethiopia, in violation of the Algiers Agreement, remained responsible for obstructing demarcation of the boundary and continuing to occupy Eritrean territory unlawfully and in violation of the UN Charter. Furthermore, Isaias claimed that the Security Council had failed to address either of these issues. On December 21, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that Eritrea's unwillingness to allow UNMEE to obtain fuel was causing UNMEE to curtail its activities and efforts to convince Eritrea to allow resumption of fuel had so far been unsuccessful. On December 27, UNMEE issued a statement indicating that an Indian battalion posted on the border heard an exchange of fire in the early hours of December 26. On December 28, the European Union Presidency issued a statement confirming the parties' primary responsibility to resolve their differences and urging the parties to fulfill their obligations under the Algiers Agreements and relevant Security Council resolutions and statements. As of December 31, 2007, UNMEE had not been supplied with diesel fuel for the month.

Guinea-Bissau

The political climate remained tense in 2007. The Government and the political parties that were signatories to the stability pact—the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the Social Renewal Party (PRS), and the United Social Democratic Party (PUSD)—met ahead of the November parliamentary session to resolve their differences. In November/December 2007, the National Assembly approved the 2007/2008 budgets. Parliamentary elections were set for November 16, 2008.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) assists in managing the political transition and in building trust among national stakeholders and international partners in the post-transition phase. In a July 10, 2007 press statement, the Security Council expressed concern at the alarming increase in organized crime, drug trafficking, and illicit small arms in Guinea-Bissau, and it called on the international community to continue to provide the necessary assistance to strengthen the security institutions and operationalize the Security Sector Reform Strategy Plan.

The Security Council agreed to an October 19, 2007, Presidential Statement that reaffirmed that the danger posed by drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau could have negative implications in the region and elsewhere. The Security Council called upon the government to take concerted action to safeguard the safety and security of those officials who were involved in combating drug trafficking and organized crime. It further welcomed the initiative to hold an international conference in Lisbon, Portugal, on drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau in December 2007.

On December 11, 2007, the United Nations Advisory Board pushed for the inclusion of Guinea-Bissau on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission's country-specific configuration for Guinea-Bissau is chaired by Brazil's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, with the aim of building a partnership among the government, international partners, the private sector, and civil society. This action was followed by a Press Statement noting the progress made by the government, with the support of the international community and the United Nations system, in particular the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), towards developing a robust anti-narcotics trafficking program.

Also in December 2007, the Secretary-General recommended that the UN Security Council renew UNOGBIS'S mandate for 12 months. The United States supported this renewal and resolved to continue to monitor closely the situation in the country.

In 2007, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) finalized a project document to provide support for the 2008-2010 electoral cycle, which includes the 2008 legislative elections and the 2010 presidential elections. UNDP and the Government are also discussing the electoral budget and voter registration methodology.

UNODC and the Government of Guinea-Bissau worked together to develop an anti-narcotics program. UNODC fielded two technical missions in October 2007 and posted a senior anti-organized crime consultant and senior legal assistance regional advisor to Bissau in November. The Governments of Guinea-Bissau and Portugal co-hosted an International Conference on Drug Trafficking in Lisbon on December 19 to mobilize program support funds.

Liberia

The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1509 (2003) to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and peace process in Liberia.

In January 2007, an all-women formed police unit contributed by India arrived in Liberia. The unit consisted of 103 women with operational responsibilities, supported by 22 male logistics specialists. This was the first time such a unit had ever been deployed on a UN operation. During 2007, the number of Liberian women applying for positions with the new Liberian National Police rose substantially, which appears to have been largely in

response to the excellent example presented by the Indian women police officers.

The UN Secretary-General's report of March 15 noted that while substantial progress had been made in reintegrating ex-combatants, around a quarter of those eligible -- about 23,000 -- were waiting for funding of suitable reintegration projects by donors. Security Council Resolution 1750 of March 30, 2007 extended UNMIL's mandate until September 30. Resolution 1750 also authorized the mission to provide administrative and security support to staff of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, within UNMIL's existing mandate, areas of deployment, and resources. Small groups of Special Court personnel visited Liberia regularly in 2007 as they prepared for the trial in The Hague of former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

On April 27, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1753, lifting a ban on diamond imports from Liberia that had been imposed in December 2003. This decision marked substantial progress on the part of the Government of Liberia in meeting the minimum recommendations of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which included putting in place internal controls. Liberia was admitted to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme on May 3, 2007.

The trial of former president Taylor by the Special Court for Sierra Leone began in The Hague on June 4. Taylor refused to attend and dismissed his chief counsel. Taylor again refused to appear when the Court reconvened on June 25. The Court directed that Taylor be assigned new counsel and that steps be taken to ensure his new defense team was assembled by July 31. The Court convened again on July 3 to address various procedural and scheduling matters. Taylor attended the brief session and entered a plea of not guilty to an amended charge of sexual slavery in Count 5 of the indictment. The Court granted the defense an additional four-month continuance, until January 7, 2008.

On September 20, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1777, which extended UNMIL's mandate for a year, until September 30, 2008. The resolution endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation for the first substantial phase of drawdown, beginning with a reduction of 2,450 military personnel by September 2008. UNMIL was also scheduled to begin reducing police in April 2008, with a projected reduction of 498 by December 2010. The drawdown schedule is measured against benchmarks of progress, in particular development of Liberia's security services.

The U.S. security sector program, which is restructuring and training the new Armed Forces of Liberia, continued during 2007, with a steady procession of personnel through enlisted, non-commissioned and officer training. The United States will train an army of 2,000, with the program projected for completion in 2010.

On October 18, Secretary-General Ban announced the appointment of Ellen Margrethe Loj (Denmark) as his Special Representative for Liberia,

replacing Alan Doss (U.K.), who became SRSG for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On December 19, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1792, renewing the arms embargo and travel ban until December 20, 2008, and renewing the mandate of the Liberia Panel of Experts until June 20, 2008. The Liberia Sanctions Committee reviewed the assets freeze, which does not have a specific end date, and left it in effect.

During a December visit by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Lofa County in the northwest (where the borders of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone meet), villagers revealed mass graves of those killed during Liberia's 14-year civil war. The smallest grave held about 78 bodies, with the largest containing as many as 500.

At the end of 2007, UNMIL's strength stood at 13,310 troops, 1,203 UN civilian police officers, and 199 military observers. The United States had six military observers, seven staff officers, and 14 police officers attached to UNMIL.

Sierra Leone

Despite the end of its 11-year civil war in 2002, Sierra Leone remains a fragile state. While developments in 2007 were generally positive, Sierra Leone needed to remain focused on addressing the root causes of the past conflict, such as promoting good governance and anti-corruption efforts, economic recovery, better access to justice, and human rights. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), originally established in 1999, completed its mandate in December 2005. UNAMSIL was succeeded by the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), established on January 1, 2006, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1620 (2005) to help consolidate peace in the country, enhance development, ensure human rights, and build capacity to hold free and fair elections in 2007.

In 2007, events in Sierra Leone were dominated by the organization and conduct of presidential and parliamentary elections. The elections, originally scheduled for July 28, were postponed to August 11. Because none of the presidential candidates won over 55 percent of the vote on the first ballot, a run-off presidential election was held on September 8, 2007. The elections were considered to be largely peaceful, transparent, and credible, despite heightened tensions and isolated clashes between the supporters of the main political parties. Several initiatives were taken to defuse the tense political situation in the days leading up to the elections. The Political Parties Registration Commission organized peace marches throughout the country and hosted high-level meetings with party political leaders to underline the need for compliance with the Political Parties Code of Conduct.

After the election results were finalized, the United States joined consensus on a Security Council press statement (SC/9121) on September 19 that noted the results of the elections and congratulated the people and institutions of Sierra Leone, particularly the National Electoral Commission

and the Sierra Leone police, on their conduct over the election period and their demonstrated commitment to the democratic process.

Following the success of the elections, the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, adopted on December 12, 2007, highlighted priority areas in the peace consolidation process to be addressed by the Government of Sierra Leone with the support of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the United Nations system, and bilateral and multinational partners.

On December 31, 2007, the United States joined consensus in the adoption of Resolution 1793 (2007) that extended the mandate for UNIOSIL for a final period of nine months, but requested a reduction in strength with a view to completing its mandate by September 2008. The Resolution welcomed the holding of peaceful and democratic parliamentary and presidential elections in August and September 2007 and stressed that the wide acceptance of the local elections in June 2008 would be another important milestone in consolidating a sustainable peace in Sierra Leone.

Somalia

The UN Security Council continued to be heavily involved in Somalia in 2007, adopting three resolutions, three Presidential Statements, and two press statements.

On February 2, the Security Council released a press statement that welcomed the African Union's (AU) intention to establish a peace support mission in Somalia, underlined the urgency of its deployment, and encouraged member states of the AU to contribute to the mission. It also welcomed the intention of Somali President Yusuf to convene a National Reconciliation Congress.

On February 21, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1744 (2007) that gave the AU Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) an UN-authorized mandate for six months to:

- Support dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia by assisting with the free movement, safe passage, and protection of those involved with efforts to promote an all-inclusive political process;
- Provide protection to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and its Institutions (TFIs) to help them carry out their functions of government and security for key infrastructure;
- Assist with the implementation of the National Security and Stabilization Plan, in particular the effective re-establishment and training of all-inclusive Somali security forces;
- Contribute, within its capacities and where appropriate, to creating the necessary security conditions for providing humanitarian assistance; and
- Protect its personnel, facilities, installations, equipment, and mission.

The resolution also urged all AU states to contribute to AMISOM and urged UN member states to provide personnel, equipment, services, and financial resources to AMISOM. It also requested the UN Secretary-General to send a Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) to visit the AU headquarters and Somalia and then compile a report on the political and security situation and the possibility of a UN peacekeeping operation following AMISOM's deployment.

On March 23, the Security Council issued another statement to the press that expressed concern about the resumption of violent clashes in Somalia and the shooting down of a cargo plane, stressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation, and reiterated its call for an immediate, all-inclusive political dialogue.

On April 30, the Security Council held consultations on Somalia, after which it adopted a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/13) that expressed grave concern at the renewed fighting in Somalia, reiterated its support for the political process outlined in the Transitional Federal Charter, called on the TFG to convene a National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) as soon as possible, and asked Secretary-General Ban to begin appropriate contingency planning for a possible UN peacekeeping mission to be deployed if authorized by the Security Council.

On June 14, the Security Council issued another Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/19) that condemned the June 3 attack on the Prime Minister and the May 16 attack on AMISOM forces, reiterated its support for the NRC as a mechanism for political dialogue and reconciliation, and emphasized the need for appropriate contingency planning for a possible UN peacekeeping mission in Somalia if the Security Council decided to authorize one.

On July 18, the Somalia Monitoring Group, which was established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 751 (1992) to collect and report information regarding arms embargo violations in Somalia, issued a report that concluded that, notwithstanding the difficulties in monitoring developments, Somalia was "literally awash with arms" and that "the sheer quantities, numbers and diversity of arms, especially in central and southern Somalia, are greater than at any time since the early 1990s." The report also concluded the majority of arms appeared to have been brought into Somalia via clandestine routes.

On July 23, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1766 (2007), which expressed the Council's intention to consider specific action to improve compliance with the arms embargo created by Resolution 733 (1992). It also extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group for a further six months so that it could continue to investigate all activities, including in the financial, maritime, and other sectors used to generate revenues to violate the arms embargo; make recommendations based on its investigations; work for additional measures to improve overall compliance with the arms embargo; and assist in identifying areas where capacities of

states in the region could be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of the arms embargo.

On August 20, the United States co-sponsored and joined in unanimously adopting Resolution 1772 (2007), which stressed the Council's concern at the upsurge in piracy off the Somali coast and encouraged member states with naval vessels and military aircraft in international waters and airspace adjacent to the coast of Somalia to be vigilant to any incident of piracy and to take appropriate action to protect merchant shipping. It also welcomed the convening of the NRC and requested the Secretary-General to promote an ongoing, all-inclusive political process; report on the progress of the NRC and subsequent political process; and provide an assessment of further measures that might be required to strengthen the UN Political Office in Somalia (UNPOS), including its possible relocation from Nairobi to Mogadishu. Finally, the Resolution decided to re-authorize AMISOM for a further six months.

On December 19, the Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/49) that reiterated its strong support for AMISOM and its request that the Secretary-General develop contingency plans for a possible UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

Sudan

UN Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005) authorized the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between North and South Sudan. UNMIS continued throughout 2007 to promote reconciliation efforts between the North and South and hold regular meetings with civilian and military authorities at the local, state, and national levels.

Progress was limited in many aspects of CPA implementation. For example, the complete redeployment of Northern and Southern forces did not occur by July 9, 2007, the date stipulated in the CPA. The Secretary-General called on the Northern forces to remove immediately all remaining regular military elements from Southern Sudan, with the exception of those intended for the Joint Integrated Units. Disputes concerning the Abyei area also remained unresolved, with rising tensions. UNMIS provided monitoring and helped with the development of a local Joint Integrated Unit, but UNMIS's freedom of movement was restricted and the area was still in danger of serious conflict. Demarcation of the north-south boundary was another issue where little progress occurred. Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration have not made significant progress since 2005, but the creation of a national strategic plan boosted its phased implementation. Toward the end of 2007, UNMIS increased its engagement with the Northern and Southern Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commissions.

Resolution 1784 (2007) extended UNMIS's mandate on October 31, 2007. Pursuant to this resolution, UNMIS held consultations with donor countries on November 16 and December 1. UNMIS also established a Joint Integrated Unit support cell. After briefly pulling out of the Government of

National Unity, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement returned to the government in December, ending the year on a more positive note.

Resolution 1706 (2006) authorized the transition of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) into UNMIS, but the Government of Sudan repeatedly refused to permit the transition of AMIS into UNMIS. To create a more robust peacekeeping force in Darfur, the United Nations held a series of negotiations with the Government of Sudan, the international community, and the African Union (AU). All parties agreed in November 2006 upon a three-phase approach to strengthen AMIS and peacekeeping efforts in Darfur. Finally, the Government of Sudan agreed to an UN-AU hybrid operation on June 12, 2007, after intense diplomatic and technical discussions. Via Resolution 1769 (2007), the UN Security Council unanimously authorized the hybrid United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) on July 31, 2007, leaving UNMIS as a separate UN peacekeeping operation.

Resolution 1769 authorized the establishment of UNAMID under Chapter VII of the UN Charter for an initial period of 12 months. Protection of civilians was at the core of its mandate. UNAMID was to contribute to the security necessary for humanitarian assistance, monitor implementation of agreements and the situation along the borders with Chad and the Central African Republic, assist an inclusive political process, and contribute to the promotion of human rights and rule of law.

In May 2007, the United Nations and African Union appointed Rodolphe Adada of the Republic of the Congo as joint AU-UN Special Representative to head UNAMID. In consultation with the United Nations, the African Union appointed General Martin Luther Agwai of Nigeria as Force Commander of AMIS. He retained this position in UNAMID.

The phases for transition from AMIS to UNAMID included deployment of Light and Heavy Support Packages of UN assistance to AMIS and culminated with a full handover to UNAMID on December 31, 2007. The Light Support Package consisted of 105 military staff officers, 34 police advisers, and 48 civilians, plus material and equipment to enhance the management capacity of AMIS. Most of the Light Support Package had deployed by August 2007.

The Heavy Support Package consisted of 2,250 military, 721 police, and 1,136 civilians. On November 21, 2007, a Bangladeshi-formed police unit arrived in Nyala. On November 24, 2007, 135 of the 355 personnel of a multi-role engineer and well-drilling company from China arrived in Nyala. In addition, individual police and other civilians for the Heavy Support Package deployed to Darfur in 2007. The security situation, administrative obstacles created by the Government of Sudan, logistical difficulties, and lack of readiness by both the UN and troop-contributing countries prevented full deployment of the Heavy Support Package in 2007.

Several benchmarks called for in Resolution 1769 were successfully met. By October 2007, UNAMID was able to establish an initial operating capability for its headquarters and establish financial arrangements to cover

troop costs for all personnel deployed to AMIS. By the same date, UNAMID was also able to complete preparations to assume operational command authority over the Light Support Package, personnel currently deployed to AMIS and the Heavy Support Package, and hybrid personnel by the transfer of authority. By December 31, UNAMID was able to assume authority from AMIS.

UNAMID lacked pledges for certain key assets when it assumed authority. UNAMID lacked one light tactical helicopter unit (six helicopters) and three military utility aviation units (18 helicopters), one heavy and one medium ground transport unit, and a multi-role logistics unit. Thus, by December 31, 2007, UNAMID had at its disposal little more than the same assets that AMIS had before the transition. The Government of Sudan put up several obstacles to UNAMID deployment. In addition, rebel activities, including attacks on Government forces, oil installations, AMIS, and humanitarian vehicles, contributed to difficult circumstances for deployment.

The humanitarian situation in Darfur continued to be volatile during 2007, with violence driving more people from their homes, bringing the total number of people displaced in 2007 to almost 270,000. Humanitarian workers also were targets of violence, despite the March 28, 2007 joint communiqué between the United Nations and Government of Sudan on facilitating humanitarian activities in Darfur. Although in October the UN and AU Special Envoys' efforts for reinvigorating the Darfur peace process got off to a weak start, such a political solution is necessary for sustainable peace and must complement peacekeeping deployment.

Western Sahara

On January 31, 2007, Moroccan Prime Minister Driss Jettou briefed the Council of Ministers on Morocco's proposed plan for the autonomy of Western Sahara, and the UN Secretary-General appointed Julian Harston of the United Kingdom (U.K.) as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

In February, Jettou announced to the press that a "first draft" of the autonomy plan would be presented to the UN in April. Soon after his announcement, a Moroccan delegation met with U.K. Minister of State Kim Howells and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Germany at the time held the Presidency of the European Union), to outline its plans for the autonomy of Western Sahara. Also during February, the Secretary-General of the Frente Polisario (Polisario), Mohammed Abdelaziz, wrote a letter to the Secretary-General requesting UN intervention to bring an end to the "flagrant human rights violations perpetrated by the Moroccan authorities in Western Sahara" and calling for the release of 38 Saharan detainees who had been on a hunger strike. Additionally, the MINURSO force commander requested that the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA) and military forces of the Polisario provide information on landmines on each side of the berm.

On March 8, Abdelaziz released a letter that reiterated Western Sahara was a decolonization problem and met with the Secretary-General on the same day. On March 14, a Moroccan delegation briefed the Secretary-General on Morocco's proposal to grant autonomy to Western Sahara. On March 18, Harston visited Rabat. The following day, then-Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammed Bedjaoui transmitted a message from President Abdelaziz Bouteflika underscoring the UN's responsibility vis-à-vis the people of Western Sahara. In a speech to Polisario officials on March 31, Polisario Secretary-General Abdelaziz declared that "any solution that does not respect our right to self-determination is unacceptable."

On April 11, the Moroccan Permanent Mission to the United Nations submitted the Moroccan initiative for negotiating an autonomy statute for the Sahara Region to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General also received a letter dated April 10 from the representative of the Polisario in New York, transmitting the Polisario proposal. During the week of April 11-17, Jettou held a series of meetings with political parties and local media to explain the "broad lines" of Morocco's autonomy proposal for Western Sahara.

On April 18, 31 Saharans traveled on MINURSO aircraft from Western Sahara to Tindouf and the same number of Saharan refugees traveled to Laayoune as part of the exchange of family visits under a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-led confidence-building measures program. On April 30, the Security Council passed Resolution 1754, which took note of the Moroccan proposal presented on April 11 to the Secretary-General, welcomed serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward toward resolution, took note of the Polisario proposal presented April 10 to the Secretary-General, called upon the parties to enter into negotiations without preconditions, and extended MINURSO's mandate by six months.

On May 3-4, Harston conducted official visits to Rabat and Rabouni for technical consultations with Moroccan and Polisario officials following the adoption of Resolution 1754. On May 7, Harston traveled to Algiers, where he held meetings with UN representatives and Algerian officials. On May 30, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, met with senior officials at the French Foreign Ministry to discuss implementation of Resolution 1754.

On June 14, MINURSO's Chief Operations Officer wrote to all MINURSO team sites clarifying that civilian presence in the buffer strip was not prohibited under Military Agreement No. 1. At the same time, MINURSO requested all team sites on the RMA side of the berm to reiterate the terms of the Military Agreement to the RMA and inform the Polisario that civilians nonetheless should refrain from entering the buffer strip.

In accordance with Resolution 1754, Morocco and the Polisario began negotiations under the Secretary-General's auspices in Manhasset, New York on June 18 and 19. Representatives of neighboring Algeria and Mauritania were also present at the opening and closing sessions and were consulted separately during the talks. The parties agreed that the process of

negotiations would continue during the second week of August 2007. On June 27, the Secretary-General issued a report on the status and progress of negotiations under UN auspices. The report stated both sides confirmed their respect for the principle for self-determination and acceptance of Resolution 1754 as the mandate for negotiations. Nonetheless, their positions remained far apart on the definition of self-determination.

On July 30, King Mohammed VI stated that Morocco was committed to serious negotiations and would remain ready to negotiate on autonomy. The King stated that a consensual autonomy solution could be conceived only within the framework of the Kingdom's full, non-negotiable sovereignty and national unity, and indivisible territorial integrity. Polisario Secretary-General Abdelaziz stated that the King's speech was an attempt to derail the decolonization process of Western Sahara and that the Moroccan position was prejudicial and negative and augured badly for the next round of negotiations.

On August 4, a group of civilians and police in civilian clothes arrived at MINURSO headquarters in Laayoune to "inspect" ongoing construction of a new security access point to MINURSO headquarters. Although the group did not attempt to enter MINURSO premises, the group briefly detained some employees of the contractor and confiscated their equipment.

On August 10 and 11, the second round of talks between representatives of Morocco and the Polisario were held in Manhasset. Representatives of Algeria and Mauritania were again present at the opening and closing sessions and consulted separately during the talks. During the meeting, the parties discussed the implementation of Resolution 1754 and also heard presentations by UN experts on natural resources and local administration. Confidence-building measures were also proposed for discussions. In a communiqué agreed by the parties, van Walsum stated that the parties acknowledged the current status quo was unacceptable and that they had committed to continue these negotiations in good faith. On August 27, Major General Zhao Jingmin of China was named the new Force Commander, and on September 17 he officially assumed duties.

On October 19, the Secretary-General issued a report on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2007/619). The most significant part of the report was van Walsum's assessment of the situation in Western Sahara. On October 24, Moroccan Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi stated that the new Moroccan Government would pursue efforts aimed at ensuring the success of the Moroccan initiative to grant substantial autonomy to Western Sahara, asserting that Morocco remained open to negotiations, but negotiations based on "autonomy, all autonomy and nothing but autonomy." On October 31, the Security Council passed Resolution 1783, which again took note of the Moroccan proposal presented on April 11 to the Secretary-General, welcomed serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward toward resolution, took note of the Polisario proposal presented April 10 to the

Secretary-General, called upon the parties to continue negotiations without preconditions, and extended MINURSO's mandate by six months.

On November 9, after an extraordinary session of its Secretariat, the Polisario issued a statement underlining that the "Sahrawi people will not accept any solution that does not put an end to the conflict as an issue of decolonization with the option to allow them to practice their right to self-determination and to independence." On December 7, the UN announced that Morocco and the Polisario would have a third round of UN-backed negotiations on Western Sahara in Manhasset. Between December 14-22 in Tifariti, Western Sahara, the Polisario held its 12th congress, where it adopted a national program of action for the next three years, which included a renewed commitment to the peace talks and a pledge to develop "liberated Sahrawi territory" (i.e., east of the berm). The congress also re-elected Abdelaziz as Secretary-General.

East Asia and the Pacific

Burma (Myanmar)

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/48/150 (1993) called on the Secretary-General to assist in implementing the Resolution, which called on the Burmese regime to release political prisoners and take "all necessary steps toward the restoration of democracy." In 1997, then Secretary-General Annan appointed then Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Alvaro de Soto (Peru) as the first Special Envoy for Myanmar (Burma). UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/54/186 (2000) provided that the Special Envoy should engage in discussions with the Government and political leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of some ethnic minority groups and called upon the Government of Myanmar to enter into constructive dialogue with the Secretary-General to make better use of his good offices to continue discussions on the human rights situation and the restoration of democracy. It also asked the Government of Myanmar to submit reports to the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights on the progress made.

Razali Ismail (Malaysia) was appointed Special Envoy in April 2000 and visited Burma in March 2004. The Burmese regime subsequently refused to permit him to return, and he resigned in January 2006. On May 22, 2007, Secretary-General Ban appointed former Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) as Special Advisor for Myanmar. Gambari has been allowed to visit Burma several times, but has achieved no breakthroughs in implementing the goals of UNGA Resolution 54/186.

The United States seeks greater attention to Burma in all UN bodies and agencies. In November 2007, UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro was allowed to visit the country for the first time since 2003 and issued a report in December 2007 that detailed the brutal September 2007 crackdown by the Burmese regime against peaceful political protests by a wide sector of Burmese citizens, led by Buddhist monks. At least

30 people were killed, thousands were imprisoned, beaten, and tortured, and monasteries were closed and sacked.

In January 2007, the Security Council voted on a draft resolution that the United States and United Kingdom had introduced in December 2006. The draft resolution called on the Government of Myanmar to cooperate with the Secretary-General's "good offices" mission, cease military attacks against civilians in ethnic minority regions, permit international humanitarian organizations to operate without restrictions, cooperate with the International Labor Organization (ILO) in the eradication of forced labor, immediately begin a substantive political dialogue leading to a genuine democratic transition, and release Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners. Although nine Council members voted in favor of the resolution, three abstained (Qatar, Indonesia, Popular Republic of the Congo), while Russia, China, and South Africa voted "no." The "no" votes by UN Security Council permanent members Russia and China resulted in the veto of the resolution.

On October 11, 2007, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement condemning the September 2007 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy protestors, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for the creation of the necessary conditions for a genuine dialogue between the Burmese regime and Aung San Suu Kyi and all concerned parties and ethnic groups to achieve an inclusive national reconciliation. The Council reiterated these concerns in a statement to the press on November 15, 2007. Gambari visited Burma in September and November to press for progress on those goals, but the regime continued to arrest and detain political prisoners, made no progress toward a dialogue with democratic and ethnic minority leaders, and insisted on continuing to implement its so-called "roadmap to democracy," a plan seemingly aimed at cementing indefinite military domination of Burma's political and economic life.

In its 2007 report on Burma, the ILO noted that in spite of the fact that its cooperation with the Burmese regime improved somewhat, forced labor continued to be a problem.

East Timor

In August 2006, the UN Security Council established the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) under Resolution 1704, with a six-month mandate to expire February 2007. At the start of 2007, UNMIT focused on preparations to assist the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) to conduct presidential and parliamentary elections. In a February report (S/2007/50), the Secretary-General recommended deploying an additional Formed Police Unit (FPU) and extending UNMIT's mandate by 12 months. On February 26, 2007, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1745 (2007) to extend the mandate of UNMIT until February 26, 2008. The mandate also increased the authorized force strength by up to 140 police personnel to permit the deployment of an additional FPU to supplement the existing FPUs, particularly during the pre- and post-electoral period.

While the security situation remained generally stable through the spring and early summer, the country experienced bouts of violence and unrest, most notably in early March when the GoTL asked the Australian-led International Stabilization Force to capture the renegade and former military police commander Major Alfredo Reinado.

The GoTL held two rounds of presidential elections, the first since the country's independence, in April and May, with the support of UNMIT and international donors. José Ramos-Horta won a majority in the May runoff election and took office as President on May 20, 2007. The election proceeded peacefully with active turnout by Timorese exercising their right to vote. The losing candidate (representing the then-ruling FRETILIN party) accepted the result peacefully. Election monitors reported no significant logistical, security, or political problems with the voting process.

The Government held parliamentary elections in a largely peaceful atmosphere on June 30, also with significant support from UNMIT. Observers considered the elections to be generally free and fair. No single party won a majority of seats in the 65-seat National Parliament, and the various parties did not agree to form a national unity government. To break the impasse, President Ramos-Horta asked former President Xanana Gusmão, head of a coalition of former opposition parties calling itself the Alliance with a Parliamentary Majority, to form a government and serve as Prime Minister. The new government was formally sworn in on August 8. The former ruling FRETILIN Party yielded power and now serves as the opposition in the National Parliament. Minor violence erupted in response to the elections in the capital of Dili and certain eastern districts, but quickly subsided, in part as a result of the response by United Nations Police and international security forces.

In September, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Atul Khare briefed the Security Council on developments in Timor-Leste. While noting significant progress, particularly the successful completion of presidential and parliamentary elections, Khare underlined that serious problems remained. He pointed to the continuing weakness in Timor-Leste's security forces and justice system, the persistence of a large population of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the challenge of achieving accountability for past crimes and human rights abuses, and the continuing need for national reconciliation. In light of these conditions, UNMIT shifted its focus from interim law enforcement and electoral assistance to building Timorese capacity in these key areas.

In November, UNMIT issued a report describing the situation with regard to human rights in Timor-Leste. The report called for further measures to combat impunity and resolve the problem of IDPs. Also in November and December, the GoTL hosted several visits by high-level UN officials, including Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno, Secretary-General Ban, and a delegation from the UN Security Council, all of

whom urged Timorese leaders to work together to tackle pressing issues in a coordinated way.

As of December 31, 2007, UNMIT had 1,513 police and military observers, with Malaysia, Bangladesh, Portugal, and Pakistan providing the largest combined number of police and military observers. No U.S. personnel served in UNMIT, although it coordinated closely with the U.S. Embassy and the Australian-led International Security Force.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

Under the February 13, 2007 Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement (Initial Actions agreement), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K. or North Korea) committed in the first phase to shut down and seal for the purpose of eventual abandonment the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility, and to invite back International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verification. The D.P.R.K. also committed to providing a "complete declaration of all nuclear programs and disablement of all existing nuclear facilities" during the "next phase."

IAEA Director-General ElBaradei visited Pyongyang March 13-14, 2007, at the D.P.R.K.'s invitation for preliminary discussions on the IAEA's prospective return to the country. Following the resolution of the Banco Delta Asia issue in June, a team of IAEA personnel led by IAEA Deputy Director General for Safeguards Olli Heinonen visited the D.P.R.K. from June 26-29, 2007. During Heinonen's visit, the D.P.R.K. and IAEA reached an understanding on an *ad hoc* arrangement to begin monitoring and verification at five nuclear facilities that would be shut down and sealed pursuant to the Initial Actions agreement: the 5-Megawatt (electric)(MW(e)) Experimental Nuclear Power Plant, the Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Plant, the Radiochemical Laboratory (reprocessing plant), the unfinished 50-MW(e) Nuclear Power Plant, all at Yongbyon, as well as the unfinished 200-MW(e) Nuclear Power Plant at Taechon. The two unfinished reactors required no shut-down.

Under the arrangement, the IAEA was given access, for the purpose of monitoring and verification activities, to all the facilities and equipment that had been shut down and sealed in the D.P.R.K.. In addition, the IAEA was permitted to install and service, as necessary, appropriate containment and surveillance devices to monitor and verify the status of the shutdown and sealed facilities and equipment. The D.P.R.K. was to inform the IAEA in advance of any changes to the design or status of facilities and equipment, as well as the removal of any equipment, so that consultations could take place on the impact such changes might have on the IAEA's monitoring and verification work.

At its July 9, 2007, IAEA meeting, the Board of Governors (BOG) authorized the Director-General, subject to the availability of funds, to implement the *ad hoc* arrangement. On July 14, 2007, an IAEA team arrived at Yongbyon to implement the arrangement, and following initial verification, on July 17, 2007, the IAEA stated that the five installations specified in the

arrangement had been shut down. Since July 17, 2007, the IAEA continued to monitor and verify the shutdown status of the five facilities and implemented appropriate monitoring and verification measures at each of the five facilities, in cooperation with the D.P.R.K. We also understand that the IAEA applied seals at each of the five facilities. IAEA officials informally expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation provided by the D.P.R.K. in enabling the IAEA to properly monitor and verify the shutdown and sealing of the five facilities.

The October 3, 2007, Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement (Second-Phase agreement) issued by the Six Parties provided that the disablement of the 5-megawatt Experimental Reactor at Yongbyon, the Reprocessing Plant (Radiochemical Laboratory) at Yongbyon and the Nuclear Fuel Rod Fabrication Facility at Yongbyon would be completed by December 31, 2007. At the request of the other parties, the United States led the disablement activities at the three core facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex and provided the initial funding for those activities. Roughly half a dozen U.S. experts have been present continuously at Yongbyon since November 4, 2007 to monitor the completion of the 11 agreed-upon disablement measures. The disablement plan was shared with all Six Parties and IAEA leadership, but was not distributed more broadly, though all of the agreed disablement activities, including photos, have been described in American and international press accounts. Due to health, safety, and verification concerns, the Parties agreed that the fuel discharge (consisting of approximately 8,000 rods in the reactor core) would need to continue even after December 31, 2007. The October 3 Second-Phase Actions agreement provided that the United States begin the process of “removing the designation of the D.P.R.K. as a state sponsor of terrorism and advance the process of terminating the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act with respect to the D.P.R.K., . . . in parallel with the D.P.R.K.’s actions based on consensus reached at the meetings of the Working Group on Normalization of D.P.R.K.-U.S. Relations.”

While disablement activities proceeded, North Korea did not provide a declaration of its nuclear program by December 31, 2007. The declaration was to be subject to a process of verification aimed at resolving any discrepancies and ensuring achievement of a declaration that was complete and correct.

The United States continued to emphasize U.S. support for a key role for the IAEA in all stages of implementation of North Korean denuclearization and the D.P.R.K.’s early return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and IAEA safeguards as contemplated in the September 19, 2005, Joint Statement, including verification of the D.P.R.K.’s declaration.

In February, the 1718 Sanctions Committee addressed a letter to UN member states concerning the implementation of the ban on the export of luxury goods to North Korea and clarifying the definition of “luxury goods.” The Committee reaffirmed that the ban was consistent with the objectives of

Resolution 1718 and was neither intended to restrict the supply of ordinary goods to the wider population of the country nor to have a negative humanitarian impact on the D.P.R.K. In June, the Committee adopted guidelines for the conduct of its work. These guidelines — which were transmitted to all states for their information and use and were posted on the Committee's webpage — serve as a tool to guide the work of the Committee and to facilitate the implementation of the measures imposed under Resolution 1718.

The Sanctions Committee continued the process of determining additional items, materials, equipment, goods, and technology to be specified under the Resolution, but no final decision was taken in this regard. By December 31, 2007, the Committee had received reports from 71 countries and one organization (European Union) concerning the implementation of the Resolution. Replies are issued as official documents of the Committee and are accessible electronically on the United Nations Official Document System and on the Committee website, unless a state requests that its reply be kept confidential. During the reporting period, the Committee received no requests for designation of any additional individuals and entities to be subjected to targeted financial sanctions or the travel ban under Resolution 1718.

Europe and Eurasia

Cyprus

The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was created in March 1964 under United Nations Security Council Resolution 186 to help end the violence between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Since the *de facto* division of the island in 1974 as a result of the Turkish military intervention that followed a *coup d'état* directed by Greece, UNFICYP has served as a buffer force between Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces on one side and Greek Cypriot National Guard and Greek (Hellenic Republic) forces on the other. The first UN-sponsored negotiations to develop institutional arrangements acceptable to both communities began in 1968; several sets of negotiations and other initiatives followed.

The UN Security Council renewed UNFICYP's mandate repeatedly since 1964. The United States continued to support the role of the UN Secretary-General and the efforts of his Special Representative in seeking a solution to the conflict. The situation inside the buffer zone remained calm in 2007.

A March 27 UN Security Council press statement on Cyprus welcomed the Greek Cypriots dismantling a wall on Ledra Street and recognized the dismantling by Turkish Cypriots of the wall and pedestrian bridge on the north side of the buffer zone in the same area earlier in the year. The statement urged the immediate opening of the crossing and the implementation of the July 8, 2006 Agreement between the President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat.

In his June report, UN Secretary-General Ban concluded that in view of the lack of a comprehensive political settlement, UNFICYP continued to play a vital role on the island. In light of the Secretary-General's report, the Security Council voted unanimously on June 15 to extend the UNFICYP mandate until December 17, 2007.

On September 5, Republic of Cyprus President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat met for the first time since agreeing to the "Gambari Process" on July 8, 2006. The three-hour meeting did not produce an agreement to implement the Process, though the leaders agreed to meet again at a suitable time.

As of December 2007, the UN Committee on Missing Persons, tasked with identifying the remains of those who died during intercommunal strife between 1963 and 1974, had exhumed the remains of more than 350 individuals. The remains of 250 underwent examination and 57 families received the remains of missing relatives.

In his December report, UN Secretary-General Ban expressed frustration with the continued lack of progress on implementing the July 8, 2006 Agreement, noting that the responsibility for finding a solution in Cyprus was with the Cypriots themselves. The Secretary-General concluded that in the absence of a comprehensive settlement, UNFICYP's presence remained necessary to maintain the ceasefire.

On December 14, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1789 to extend the UNFICYP mandate for an additional six months. The resolution expressed full support of the July 8 agreement, noted with deep concern the lack of progress made, urged all parties involved to engage constructively with UN efforts, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report by June 1, 2008, on the implementation of this resolution.

As of December 31, 2007, UNFICYP had 923 troops and police, with Argentina, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, and Hungary serving as the largest troop contributing countries. No U.S. personnel served in UNFICYP. UN assessments for UNFICYP in 2007 totaled \$26 million. The U.S. share totaled \$6.2 million.

Georgia

Established on August 24, 1993, by UN Security Council Resolution 858, the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) monitors compliance with a cease-fire agreement reached between the Georgian Government and Abkhaz separatists. Under the May 1994 Moscow Agreement, a peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) monitors compliance with the terms of the cease-fire. The CIS force consists of approximately 1,700 armed Russian Federation troops. CIS peacekeepers maintain checkpoints along both sides of the cease-fire line. UNOMIG military observers maintain a close working relationship with the CIS force, which is responsible for UNOMIG's security. On July 2, 1994, Resolution 937

increased the authorized number of military observers in UNOMIG (all unarmed) from 55 to 136.

On January 11, 2007, the Secretary-General released his first quarterly report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia. The report noted settlement efforts were burdened by fundamental differences between the sides on underlying political questions. The report also noted that both sides had refocused their attentions towards enlisting more active external support rather than engaging in direct dialogue.

On March 11, 2007, UNOMIG received a number of reports about the bombardment of villages and the presence of helicopters in the upper Kodori Valley. The following morning UNOMIG convened a joint fact-finding group (JFFG) charged with investigating the incident. The JFFG, which included representatives from UNOMIG, the CIS peacekeeping force, Abkhazia, and Georgia, did not determine responsibility, but it did provide a list of recommendations to avoid such incidents, including UNOMIG deploying artillery radar in the Kodori Valley and enhancing surveillance capability (possibly by unmanned aerial vehicles).

On April 3, 2007, the Secretary-General released his second quarterly report on the situation in Abkhazia. The report welcomed progress the two sides had made in implementing Resolution 1716 (2006), particularly the continuation of joint patrolling of the Kodori Valley by UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force. The report also noted that the events of March 11 were a major setback and that tensions along the ceasefire line had remained high, including an exchange of fire that took place on March 1. On April 13, 2007, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1752 extending UNOMIG's mandate for six months.

On July 18, 2007, the Secretary-General released his third quarterly report, which welcomed the outcome of a Group of Friends meeting on June 27-28 in Bonn and expressed his hope that both sides would take concrete steps to implement the understandings reached at the meeting, in particular the establishment of maritime communication between Sukhumi and Trabzon, Turkey, with appropriate Customs control, cooperation on issues such as missing persons, and continued cooperation in combating swine fever. The report also expressed concern about tensions around Georgia's patriotic youth camp in Ganmukhuri.

On September 20, 2007, the Georgian and Abkhaz sides clashed in an isolated area outside the zone of conflict. The Georgian side apprehended seven Abkhaz personnel. Several were wounded and two former Russian officers, reportedly on contract with the Abkhaz *de facto* border guards, were killed. On September 21, 2007, with the consent of the Georgian authorities and the *de facto* Abkhaz authorities, an UNOMIG fact-finding team began an independent inquiry into the incident, noting that it took place outside of UNOMIG's area of responsibility. At the end of 2007, UNOMIG had not concluded its investigation into this incident.

On October 3, 2007, the Secretary-General released his fourth quarterly report noting that UNOMIG had observed a relative calm in the zone of conflict since his last report in July, except for the deadly clash on September 20, the most serious incident involving the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in many years. On October 15, 2007, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1781 extending UNOMIG's mandate until April 15, 2008.

On November 7, 2007, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili announced a temporary state of emergency and banned all news broadcasts except state-controlled television due to widespread unrest after riot police broke up demonstrations calling for Saakashvili's ouster. On November 16, 2007, the UN Secretary-General issued a statement welcoming the lifting of the state of emergency in Georgia. He emphasized the importance of the full restoration of freedom of expression and association. He also took note of both sides' concerns and allegations, including impending threats and a major build-up of armed forces in the zone of conflict and the Kodori valley. The Secretary-General asserted that UNOMIG had been conducting daily verification of the claims, many of which had not been confirmed by the situation on the ground.

The Former Yugoslavia: UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia withdrew its forces from Kosovo following the 1999 air campaign against Serbian forces by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (June 10, 1999) authorized an international security presence that became the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) as well as an international civil presence that became the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) responsible for, among other things, overseeing the development of provisional self-governing democratic institutions.

In November 2005, based upon the recommendations of UN Envoy Kai Eide that the time had come to initiate a process designed to determine Kosovo's future status, then UN Secretary-General Annan appointed Martti Ahtisaari as his Special Envoy for the Kosovo Future Status Process. Over the course of 2006 and early 2007, Special Envoy Ahtisaari led intensive, but ultimately inconclusive, negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina. In April 2007, Special Envoy Ahtisaari declared the process at an impasse. Nonetheless, he presented to the UN Security Council a comprehensive proposal for Kosovo's future status, including broad provisions to protect Kosovo's minorities, and recommended that Kosovo become independent subject initially to a period of international supervision. Serbia rejected the plan outright, and Russia stated it would not support any outcome to which Serbia did not agree.

In May 2007, a draft resolution on Kosovo was introduced in the Security Council. The draft resolution endorsed the provisions contained in the Ahtisaari Settlement, requested that an International Steering Group

appoint an International Civilian Representative (ICR) in accordance with the settlement, authorized the establishment of a European Union Rule of Law Mission to support implementation of the settlement, and decided that the international security presence would continue to be authorized. Ultimately, despite several attempts to revise the initial draft to produce an acceptable Security Council resolution, Russia made it clear that it would veto the resolution if brought to a vote.

Russian opposition prevented UN Security Council endorsement of the Ahtisaari settlement. A further 120-day period of engagement between Belgrade and Pristina was facilitated by a Troika composed of representatives of the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United States, which oversaw multiple rounds of negotiations between the parties. Despite four months of intense and high-level negotiations, Belgrade and Pristina were unable to reach agreement on Kosovo's final status. UNMIK continued to exercise its responsibilities under Resolution 1244 throughout 2007.

Western Hemisphere

Haiti

On February 15, 2007, UN Security Council Resolution 1743 extended the mandate of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by eight months until October 15, 2007. On October 15, 2007, UN Security Council Resolution 1780 extended MINUSTAH's mandate for one year, until October 15, 2008. MINUSTAH's mandate, to promote a secure and stable environment in Haiti, was established under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, allowing MINUSTAH freedom of action when carrying out security-related activities. Eleven Western Hemisphere countries continued to provide approximately one-half of MINUSTAH's troops and police out of a total 43 countries contributing assets to the mission.

MINUSTAH is authorized to provide technical expertise in support of Haiti's efforts to control its borders, including by establishing MINUSTAH patrols along maritime and land border areas, to curb illicit cross-border trafficking of drugs and arms as well as other illegal activities. MINUSTAH continued to help improve Haiti's security conditions in 2007 and provided security and logistical support for remaining legislative and local government elections.

Joint MINUSTAH/Haitian National Police (HNP) anti-crime operations supported the extension of state authority, aided in the fight against poverty, and facilitated quick-impact projects and other developmental activities. In Cite Soleil and Martissant, MINUSTAH/HNP operations resulted in the arrest of nearly 1,000 criminal gang members. With the full support of the Government of Haiti, these operations dismantled the criminal gangs, captured their leadership, and restored state authority to one of Haiti's most troubled areas. MINUSTAH/HNP check points and regular joint patrols by MINUSTAH and the HNP provided conditions enabling UN agencies and development authorities to undertake work in relative safety. While

kidnappings for ransom continued to plague Haiti, the 227 kidnappings in 2007 represent a significant decline from 506 in 2006.

In October 2007, MINUSTAH peacekeepers assisted in Haiti's recovery from tropical storm Noel, which caused extensive damage and more than 73 deaths. MINUSTAH peacekeepers conducted large-scale humanitarian evacuations, ferrying residents to safety in inflatable boats and providing food, water, and medical assistance.

MINUSTAH and the Government of Haiti implemented a five-year HNP Reform Plan agreed upon in December 2006, including a robust Community Crime Reduction Program, commencing in Cite Soleil on January 3, 2007. While the Reform Plan envisions expanding the HNP to 14,000 officers over its remaining four years, at the current rate of fewer than 1,200 recruits each year, this will prove difficult.

Haiti did not schedule constitutionally-mandated Senate elections due in autumn 2007. This delay resulted in a reduction of serving Senators to 18, just two above the number needed for a quorum, threatening a cessation of legislative functioning, and raising the prospect of presidential rule by decree. Such a failure would constitute a severe setback to MINUSTAH's goals and to the international community's engagement in Haiti.

MINUSTAH's Border Security Implementation Plan, authorized in UN Security Council Resolution 1773, commenced in fall 2007 along the contiguous border with the Dominican Republic. While MINUSTAH has deployed troops to the land borders with the Dominican Republic, the UN Security Council-authorized maritime mission has yet to deploy. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to work with member states to source the required 16 patrol boats to watch over 1,000 miles of Haiti's coastline out 3 - 5 kilometers.

Tragically, 11 MINUSTAH peacekeepers lost their lives in the course of the year, including five from acts of violence.

The United States remains Haiti's largest bilateral assistance donor, contributing over \$260 million in 2007. U.S. assistance to Haiti for the period of 2004 through 2007 totaled over \$800 million. American assistance is intended to help Haiti improve its security and its justice sector, foster good governance, and stimulate economic growth. To help ensure secure and stable conditions for democratic institutions and economic development in Cite Soleil, the United States committed \$20 million in assistance for a focused program, the Haiti Stabilization Initiative (HSI), to increase police and access to justice, improve service delivery, and deliver targeted economic assistance.

Total donor funding pledged at the July 2006 Donors Conference in Port-au-Prince amounted to \$750 million through September 2007. UN assessments for MINUSTAH in 2007 totaled \$418.9 million. The U.S. share totaled \$82 million.

Disarmament Issues

1540 Committee

UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) established, for the first time, binding obligations on states, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to develop and enforce appropriate legal and regulatory measures against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. Among other things, Resolution 1540 obligates member states to criminalize and take action against proliferation-related activities, including financing. The Security Council established a subsidiary Committee, comprised of all Security Council members, to assist with implementation to prevent and deter illicit access to WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials.

The Security Council, through Resolution 1673 (2006), unanimously extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for two years. During 2007, outreach to other member states, on a bilateral basis or in the context of existing regional or sub-regional organizations, became an important element of the United States' approach toward the implementation of Resolution 1540. Through this outreach, the United States sought not only to encourage member states to submit reports to the 1540 Committee but also to highlight the role that regional organizations could play in promoting the discussion of their members' experiences in implementing Resolution 1540, disseminating best practices, and helping participating states to present more and better reports in support of the Resolution. The United States, consistent with the mandate under Resolution 1673, has sought to complement the 1540 Committee's outreach activities.

In 2007, the United States helped explain the value of completing a National Action Plan (which the United States completed in May 2006) and worked with regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the Organization of American States (OAS), to achieve consensus among members to submit such plans on a voluntary basis. Moreover, the United States sought to partner with other assistance providers, such as the European Union, to coordinate better efforts to build nonproliferation capacity.

Through its bilateral and Committee-based outreach activities in 2007, the United States worked to build support for further action by member states in recognition of the realities and complexities involved in fulfilling the provisions of Resolution 1540. In doing so, the United States focused on laying the groundwork to ensure that the Security Council would renew the mandate of the 1540 Committee beyond its scheduled expiration in April 2008. In preparation for the negotiations to extend the Committee's mandate, the United States expressed support during the latter part of 2007 for a mandate extension beyond two years, with enhanced terms for the mandate, to enable the 1540 Committee to pursue a better-coordinated, better-funded, and

more inclusive approach toward promoting the implementation of Resolution 1540 by all member states.

Conference on Disarmament

The Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the principal multilateral forum for negotiating arms control and disarmament agreements. Its agenda includes the issues of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war, weapons of mass destruction, conventional armaments, negative security assurances (NSAs), the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), and transparency in armaments.

The CD is an autonomous body, but is supported through the budget of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs. The United States is assessed 22 percent of the approximately \$4 million devoted to CD costs annually. The CD's 65 member states are divided into geopolitical groups – the Western Group, the Eastern Group, and the Non-Aligned (G-21) Group, with China as an independent member. In addition, 41 governments also participated in 2007 as observers. All CD decisions are made by consensus, and the presidency of the CD rotates alphabetically among its members during its 24-week session; each serves for a month. The CD held 36 formal plenary sessions and 48 informal plenary meetings during 2007. The CD adopted its annual report to the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007.

The CD has produced significant treaties in the past, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention. When the 2007 session began, the CD had been stalemated for 10 consecutive years because it was unable to agree on a program of work and that situation continued throughout 2007.

As has become the pattern in recent years, the six countries (South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, and Syria, or collectively the "P-6") that held the rotational CD presidency in 2007 worked together to design a year-long timetable that allowed for a rolling discussion of all of the CD's seven substantive agenda items. They appointed seven CD representatives as coordinators, one for each of the agenda items. After formal and informal discussion of all agenda items in the first weeks, the P-6 at the March 23 plenary put forward a proposal for organizing the work of the balance of the 2007 session. That proposal, presented in document CD/2001/L.1, called for the negotiation of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), the primary U.S. objective in the CD, and for substantive discussion on nuclear disarmament, NSAs, and PAROS.

The U.S. representative pointed out that the United States would have preferred a clear-cut decision to start negotiations on FMCT, based on a draft mandate the United States tabled in 2004, and without reference to any other issue. Nonetheless, the United States accepted the P-6 proposal as presented in L.1 as a carefully-crafted and balanced way forward that the United States would not block. But during subsequent discussions, a small core of states, led

by Pakistan, China, and Iran, effectively blocked a consensus on L.1, arguing that the proposal required amendment.

In the CD's annual report to the General Assembly, CD members noted that an increased level and focus had characterized the CD's activities in 2007 and highlighted the need to build on that momentum during the 2008 session.

UN Disarmament Commission

The UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), is a deliberative body intended to consider in depth and make recommendations on disarmament issues. It typically meets annually for three weeks in New York. The UNDC reports annually to the UNGA. All UN member states are eligible to participate, but barely one-third have attended the UNDC in recent years.

The UNDC focuses during a three-year cycle on a limited number of agenda items, and its recommendations must be approved by consensus. The focus of the United States has been to ensure that the UNDC adopts reports that are consistent with and advance U.S. policy. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) historically has tried to focus UNDC discussion almost exclusively on nuclear disarmament issues. The United States has tried to maintain a balance in UNDC work between nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, on the one hand, and other disarmament issues, such as conventional arms control, on the other. The UNDC last issued consensus recommendations in 2000.

The April 2006 UNDC session was the first dealing with substance since 2003, when the Commission failed to agree on any recommendations after three years of effort. At that session, the UNDC began consideration of issues relating to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and to practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. The Commission adopted the agenda proposed by the United States that, for the first time, equated nuclear non-proliferation with nuclear disarmament as UNDC priorities. Also at U.S. insistence, the UNDC considered and adopted a modest set of measures to improve its internal operations.

At its 2007 session, the UNDC continued its work in two groups. Working Group I considered recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. At the end of the session, the chairman made clear that his working paper on the subject would be a basis for further deliberations at the UNDC's concluding session in 2008. Working Group II prepared a paper on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. It was decided that it, too, would be a basis for work at the 2008 session.

At both the 2006 and 2007 UNDC sessions, the Islamic Republic of Iran was chosen as a vice-chair of the Commission, despite strong criticism from the United States. Iran's presence in the UNDC Bureau did not affect the outcome of the UNDC's work.

At the 62nd session of the General Assembly, the United States continued to decline to participate in the adoption of the annual UNDC resolution because of continuing concerns within the U.S. Government about the overall worth of the Commission's work, notwithstanding the few relatively positive developments noted above.

Peacekeeping Issues

Peacekeeping Financing

In 2007, the United States supported the opening of two missions: the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and the UN African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian relief, and contribute to stabilization of the security situation in the affected areas.

The United States supports UN peacekeeping operations when they can be an effective means of containing conflict and resolving disputes in support of U.S. national interests. The United States has supported proposals to improve the United Nations' ability to assess conflict situations, to plan and manage peacekeeping operations, and to respond quickly to UN mandates. The United States also has encouraged other states to include peacekeeping in their national security strategies and to contribute forces to peacekeeping whenever appropriate. The total number of troops, military observers, and UN police from all nations serving in UN missions at the end of 2007 increased by 3,941 from 2006, due primarily to the expansion of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) that had been authorized in August 2006. As of December 31, 2007, the United Nations had a total of 70,508 troops, 2,724 military observers, and 11,077 UN police participating in 17 UN peacekeeping operations. The U.S. contribution for UN peacekeeping included 291 U.S. police and 25 U.S. military serving in UN military staff or observer positions.

UN peacekeeping activities have grown dramatically over the past years resulting in the U.S. Government's contribution rising from some \$795,000 in fiscal year 2003 to nearly \$1.8 billion in fiscal year 2007.

Peacekeeping Reform

The growth in demand for UN peacekeeping operations that began in the mid-1990s led to the creation in 2000 of the Panel on UN Peace Operations, chaired by then-UN Under Secretary-General Lakhdar Brahimi. The Panel's "Brahimi Report" made a long list of recommendations on improving UN peacekeeping operations, including the restructuring and augmentation of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), as well as improvements in planning, standards of conduct, best practices, and force generation.

Since that time, DPKO's professional standards and planning improved substantially. The United Nations established a forward logistics base with strategic stocks at Brindisi, Italy, to enable more rapid deployments. DPKO established force standards to ensure minimum qualifications for

troops. By the end of 2007, DPKO oversaw almost 107,000 military, police, and civilian personnel in 17 peacekeeping missions and three political missions around the world.

Despite the substantial improvements made in managing peace operations in response to the Brahimi Report, there was not a parallel growth in headquarters staff to support the expansion of peacekeeping. In that context, Secretary-General Ban in 2007 presented proposals for restructuring DPKO and substantially increasing the resources, in particular staffing, available for planning and supporting UN operations.

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/279 of August 1 approved the restructuring proposal with some modifications. The restructuring created a separate Department of Field Support (DFS) headed by an Under Secretary-General and several new senior management officers. DFS became responsible for administrative and logistic support, and DPKO became responsible for military, police, and stabilization planning. The two Departments began working in integrated teams.

The Secretary-General proposed 495 new permanent positions for the two Departments and 76 additional contract positions. The General Assembly approved 284 new positions (211 fewer than requested) and 137 new contract positions (61 more than requested). In addition, the General Assembly approved revisions in contracting and procurement procedures designed to streamline work, improve performance, and reduce the need for further additional positions.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

In 2007, the U.S. Government continued to pressure the United Nations and troop-contributing countries to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and to hold the perpetrators accountable.

According to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), 127 new allegations made against UN peacekeeping personnel for sexual exploitation and abuses were reported in 2007. The UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) reviews all allegations and conducts investigations into those that are deemed serious and credible. In 2007, OIOS completed 123 investigations (including some from earlier years and not necessarily corresponding to the 127 new allegations noted above). Of those investigations, 114 allegations resulted in repatriations; OIOS found nine to be unsubstantiated.

Alleged and confirmed cases of sexual exploitation and abuse are reported in the Department of State's comprehensive semi-annual report to the Congress on UN measures taken to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, and the effectiveness of such measures, pursuant to section 104(e) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), FY 2006, (P.L. 109-164). The Department's reports covered all alleged cases reported to DPKO or alleged cases reported by the press. Additionally, the report provided insight from U.S. embassies in the countries where the UN

peacekeeping mission was located and/or where the alleged incident of sexual exploitation and abuse occurred. Each report covered all peacekeeping missions expected to be created or renewed during the next six months. The first report to the Congress covered UN peacekeeping missions with a mandate expiration or renewal during the period of August 15, 2006, to February 15, 2007. This was followed by a report on relevant missions for the period February to August 2007; the report from August 2007 to February 2008 will be issued in 2008. Separately, and also pursuant to section 104(e) of the TVPRA, the Department of State's 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report summarized actions taken by the United Nations to prevent trafficking in persons or the exploitation of trafficked victims.

Throughout 2007, UN member states – working in particular in the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (the "C-34") – addressed issues related to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel. On July 24, the General Assembly approved a Model Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries, specifying standards and procedures for investigations and disciplinary action. On December 19, the General Assembly approved the "Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel." The strategy authorized the United Nations to respond to the immediate needs of persons alleging sexual exploitation and abuse and to provide for longer term assistance for persons whose claims were substantiated and for children born as the result of sexual exploitation and abuse. Member states also met to discuss a report by legal experts on possible approaches to holding UN officials and experts accountable for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse and requested recommendations from the Secretary-General on welfare and recreation facilities for peacekeeping personnel (a critical element in maintaining health and morale).

During 2007, the United Nations continued to establish Conduct and Discipline Teams (CDTs) at UN headquarters and in UN peacekeeping missions. CDTs are responsible for developing policies and programs to promote application of the UN's zero-tolerance policy and informing local communities of safe channels for reporting allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. CDTs also receive complaints and reports of misconduct and determine which allegations should be handled by missions and which are sufficiently serious to refer to OIOS.

Where necessary, UN peacekeeping missions instituted off-limits areas, curfews, telephone hotlines, and/or required mission personnel to wear uniforms at all times. In addition, DPKO developed training modules for different levels of personnel that are provided to troop-contributing countries for pre-deployment training. On arrival, all personnel are given additional briefings on standards of conduct and the zero-tolerance policy.

UN Police

UN police officers have participated in peacekeeping missions since the 1960s. During 2007, as part of an overall restructuring of UN management of peacekeeping operations, UN police issues were placed under the newly-created Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Police Division is responsible for issues related to civilian and military police, as well as gendarmes.

The United States continued its efforts to provide high-quality police officers to UN operations. At the end of 2007, the United States had police officers assigned to the UN missions in Haiti (48), Kosovo (217), Liberia (14), and Sudan (12). In 2007, the demand for qualified police officers to deploy to peacekeeping missions continued to outpace the supply. By the end of 2007, recruiting was underway for the Standing Police Capacity, a cadre of police professionals available to start new UN police operations or to troubleshoot existing operations.

Special Issues

Children in Armed Conflict

UN involvement in children and armed conflict commenced following the groundbreaking Machel Report in 1996, which comprehensively analyzed the effects of armed conflict on children. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict pursued this issue in the UN and with individual member states throughout 2007.

The UN Security Council Working Group established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) met on numerous occasions in 2007 to review the Secretary-General's country-specific reports, as well as his Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict that lists state and non-state actors who actively and unlawfully recruit and use children. This list of parties to armed conflict is bifurcated: Annex I lists parties in countries currently on the agenda of the Security Council, and Annex II lists parties in countries that are not on the Security Council's agenda. These reports evolved from Security Council Resolution 1261 (1999), which addressed unlawful recruitment and use of children in the context of international peace and security, and the Council's follow-up work in Resolutions 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), and 1539 (2004). The Working Group's current mandate is the result of Resolution 1539's decision to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict (SCR 1539, paragraph 5b) and Resolution 1612's decision to establish a Working Group of the Security Council to review reports on that mechanism and on action plans developed by parties listed in Annex I of the Secretary-General's reports.

The Working Group is a subsidiary body of the Security Council, chaired by the French. The Working Group established a 2007 program of work based on the Annexes of the Secretary-General's annual report, in which two countries were reviewed every two months and conclusion documents

were decided by consensus. These conclusion documents include letters or public statements from the President of the Security Council or Chair of the Working Group to the concerned member states, non-state actors, the Secretary-General, and international organizations or programs, such as the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund. These letters or statements reflect observations and recommendations agreed by the Working Group. Parties to armed conflict in each designated member state are reviewed on a roughly annual basis to measure progress on the issue of children and armed conflict. De-listing only occurs if a party displays compliance in the form of an action plan to halt the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and implementation of that action plan, particularly in the areas of unlawful recruitment and separation of children from military units or other armed groups.

By the end of 2007, the Working Group had reviewed all parties to armed conflict listed in the Annexes to the Secretary-General's 2006 Annual Report, including those situated in Burma, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Somalia, and Uganda. Although it has a powerful set of tools, the Working Group has faced challenges in gaining consensus on employment of such tools.

Although success is difficult to measure, non-state actors from the Cote d'Ivoire who were previously listed in the Secretary-General's report were de-listed. This was the first recorded de-listing. Other encouraging developments for the Working Group included the increased cooperation of relevant parties in certain country situations and a marked reduction in the number of new recruits.

The Working Group and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka), have sometimes ventured beyond the countries listed in the annual reports of the Secretary-General. For example, in spring 2007, Ms. Coomaraswamy visited Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine. The Working Group does not officially react to these activities and did not officially review and react to her trip notes, although members of the Working Group were briefed in several special sessions to learn about her trip.

Non-Self-Governing Territories

The status of non-self-governing territories, defined as "territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government," is considered annually by the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee of 24 or C-24) and by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the UN General Assembly.

The United States is the administering power of three non-self-governing territories considered by the Committee: American Samoa, Guam,

and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, as a self-governing dominion, was removed from the Committee's jurisdiction in 1953. In 2007 the United States continued its long-standing practice of joining with the United Kingdom to ensure agreement on an "omnibus" resolution on the "Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands." This resolution confirmed the right of self-determination and reiterated the call for complete decolonization. It further recognized the work of the "administering powers" to this end. As in prior years, this resolution was adopted by consensus. The United States continues to fulfill reporting requirements as requested by this resolution and Article 73(e) of the UN Charter.

During the General Assembly, the United States voted against or abstained on a series of resolutions addressing the governance and independence of non-self-governing territories. These resolutions contained unacceptable provisions regarding land tenure, economic and military activities, or the responsibilities of administering powers.

Oil For Food

The Oil-for-Food program was terminated on December 31, 2007, with the expiration of the final 68 contracts, in accordance with Resolution 1483 (2003). However, 210 unpaid letters of credit, worth approximately \$656 million were still pending with BNP Paribas at that time. The suppliers of 164 of these unpaid letters of credit, worth approximately \$175 million, claimed that they had fulfilled the contract by delivering goods and services in Iraq; the suppliers of the other 46 contracts, worth approximately \$481 million, did not claim delivery of goods and services. These 46 contracts have been targeted for cancellation, and the associated \$481 million remains in the United Nations Iraq Account, at the request of the Security Council. The 164 contracts with claims of delivery cannot be paid out without the receipt of the corresponding authentication documents from the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI). In letters to the Secretary-General dated January 29, April 30, and November 8, 2007, Security Council members expressed their concern regarding the CBI's delay in authenticating the letters of credit and urged it to expedite the authentication process, so that the suppliers could receive payment for the delivery of goods and services.

Peacebuilding Commission

The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) continued to focus in 2007 on Burundi and Sierra Leone, as the first countries under its review, and added a third country, Guinea-Bissau, at the end of the year. The PBC encouraged an inclusive process in Burundi and Sierra Leone that involved civil society, government, and the many other actors relevant to peacebuilding in these countries, including the World Bank and other institutions of the broader international community.

In addition, the PBC Organizational Committee addressed various organizational, procedural, and methodological issues. In 2007, the Organizational Committee discussed the concept note on integrated peacebuilding strategies and adopted the provisional guidelines for the participation of civil society in PBC meetings. It decided to invite institutional donors, pursuant to paragraph 9 of UN General Assembly Resolution 60/180 and UN Security Council Resolution 1645 (2005). The Working Group on Lessons Learned, created in 2006, held meetings on Sierra Leone, the Afghanistan Compact, regional approaches, strategic frameworks, fiscal capacities in post-conflict countries, and local governance and decentralization.

The PBC's country-specific meetings on Burundi and Sierra Leone took place regularly and led to the adoption of workplans and visits by field missions to gather information and produce analyses. The PBC also launched the development of integrated peacebuilding strategies in line with the critical priority areas identified by the PBC in 2006 for each country. The country-specific configuration for Burundi produced its integrated strategy in June, while the country-specific configuration for Sierra Leone waited until after Sierra Leone's national elections in August to adopt its strategy in December. The country-specific configuration for Burundi adopted its Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism in December to help implement its strategy.

In addition, in December, the Security Council referred Guinea-Bissau to the PBC and requested its advice on (1) that government's capacity to institute effective management of national finances, including effective anti-corruption policies; (2) action by the national government and the international community to develop effective security systems and to strengthen the rule of law, particularly considering the dangers posed by drug trafficking and organized crime; and (3) developing democratic accountability and preparations for elections in 2008.

The UN Peacebuilding Support Office continued to support the work of the PBC and to oversee the operation of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, which had more than \$200 million and was disbursing funds for projects for Sierra Leone, Burundi, and other countries declared eligible for similar peacebuilding needs or, for amounts under \$1 million, on an emergency basis for peacebuilding purposes.

Sanctions

The United States continued to support the imposition of UN sanctions in response to threats to international peace and security. Chapter VII, Article 41, of the United Nations Charter authorizes the Security Council to require member states to implement measures not involving the use of armed force to give effect to its decisions. Under this authority, the Security Council has resorted to the use of multilateral sanctions to address threats to international peace and security where diplomatic efforts alone have been insufficient.

The United States believes that international sanctions, appropriately structured and targeted, can serve as a key political tool to prompt a change in policies or behaviors that threaten international peace and security. Sanctions have restricted access to arms, funds, and commodities used to undermine security, while denying political support to the leadership of sanctioned regimes. The United States recognizes that sanctions alone are often insufficient and are most effective when used in conjunction with effective diplomacy. The effectiveness of United Nations sanctions is directly linked to the willingness and ability of member states, particularly neighbors of the targeted regime, to implement and enforce the measures.

In 2007, the UN Security Council maintained multilateral sanctions regimes directed toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, and Iran, as well as against non-state actors in Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Additionally, United Nations sanctions remained in place against Saddam Hussein and other senior officials of the former Iraqi regime [Resolution 1518 (2003)]; individuals and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Taliban, and al-Qaida [Resolution 1267 (1999)]; and individuals designated by the International Independent Investigation Commission or the Government of Lebanon as suspected of involvement in the terrorist bombing that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 19 others [Resolution 1636 (2005)].

In an effort to ensure fair and clear procedures exist to remove individuals and entities from sanctions lists, the United States and France drafted Resolution 1730 (2006). This resolution established a focal point review process, which became operational in March 2007, to receive and better facilitate requests for de-listing.

The arms embargo on Somalia, dating back to 1992, remained in place as the oldest sanctions regime currently in effect. Resolution 1766, adopted on July 23, 2007, re-established for six months a monitoring group, established by Resolution 1519 (2003), to continue monitoring implementation and violations of the arms embargo. In Resolution 1744, adopted on February 20, 2007, the Security Council established exceptions to the arms embargo to support the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and provide State-supplied assistance to help rebuild effective security sector institutions. Additionally, Resolution 1772, adopted on August 20, 2007, re-authorized member states of the African Union to maintain a protection and training mission in Somalia and decided that the arms embargo would not apply to supplies of weapons and military equipment intended solely for support of or use by this force.

The Security Council adopted Resolution 1749 on March 28, 2007, in response to positive developments in Rwanda, especially the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region; the Nairobi Communiqué; and the Goma Peace Process. This resolution removed the notification requirement for the export of arms by states to the Government

of Rwanda, as well as the Government of Rwanda's requirement to mark, register, and notify the Sanctions Committee of all arms it imported.

The United States supported a series of resolutions concerning measures imposed on Liberia in 2007. In recognition of the progress made in Liberia, Resolution 1753, adopted on April 27, 2007, lifted the ban on the import of diamonds from Liberia imposed by Resolution 1521 (2003). Resolution 1760, adopted June 20, 2007, re-established a panel of experts to assess the effectiveness of and compliance with the sanctions regime. Due to the still fragile security situation, however, the United States supported Resolution 1792, adopted on December 19, 2007, which renewed the arms embargo, extended the travel ban on designated individuals for a period of 12 months, and re-appointed the Panel of Experts for six months.

Concerned with the ongoing situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), the Security Council adopted Resolution 1768 on July 31, 2007 and Resolution 1771 on August 10, 2007, which renewed for one month and six months, respectively, the D.R.C. Group of Experts, established by Resolution 1533 (2004). Resolutions 1768 and 1771 also renewed the arms embargo imposed by Resolution 1493 (2003) and the travel ban and asset freeze imposed on designated persons by Resolution 1596 (2005), including the extension of such measures to designated political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict as described in Resolution 1689 (2006).

In addition, the deteriorating situations in Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan prompted the Security Council to adopt three sanctions-related resolutions for these countries in 2007. Resolution 1761, adopted on June 20, 2007, re-established the Group of Experts concerning Cote d'Ivoire through October 2007. The Group of Experts supported the Committee by monitoring the effectiveness of the sanctions regime, in cooperation with the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Additionally, Resolution 1782, adopted on October 29, 2007, renewed for one year the arms embargo, travel ban, assets freeze, embargo on the import of rough diamonds originating in Cote d'Ivoire, and the mandate of the Group of Experts. Resolution 1782 also demanded that all Ivorian parties provide unhindered access to the Group of Experts, UNOCI, and the French forces supporting UNOCI. In response to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, the United States supported the adoption of Resolution 1779 on September 28, 2007. Resolution 1779 re-established the Panel of Experts concerning Sudan, originally established by Resolution 1591 (2005), for one year and called on all states, relevant UN bodies, the African Union and other interested parties to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts.

The United States supported several sanctions resolutions in response to the international threats to peace and security posed by the nuclear programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) and Iran. The United States drafted and welcomed the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1718 on October 14, 2006, which imposed targeted sanctions on the D.P.R.K.

and established a Security Council Committee to oversee the implementation of measures related to the ban on transfers of specified weapons of mass destruction-related items, the travel ban, assets freeze, and arms embargo. On June 20, 2007, the Committee adopted guidelines for the conduct of its work. Similarly, in response to Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1747 on March 24, 2007. Resolution 1747 expanded and strengthened the existing sanctions regime established under Resolution 1737 (2006). Resolution 1747 called upon all states to exercise not only vigilance, but also restraint with respect to allowing entry into their territories of designated individuals providing support for Iran's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities or ballistic missile program. Additionally, it required states to freeze assets of additional individuals and entities; prohibited Iran from exporting or other states from procuring from Iran any arms or related material; called on states to exercise vigilance and restraint in the transfer to Iran of certain categories of heavy conventional arms; and called on all states and international financial institutions not to enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance, or concessional loans to the Government of Iran.

Security Council Membership

Each year the UN General Assembly (UNGA) elects five non-permanent members of the Security Council for two-year terms. Countries must receive a two-thirds majority of UN members present and voting to be elected. In accordance with the UN Charter and Council practice, the non-permanent Council seats rotate among the various regional groups. In 2007, the five open seats were allocated as follows: two for Africa, one for Asia, one for Eastern Europe (Countries with Economies in Transition), and one for the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). The Africa group reached consensus supporting the candidacies of Burkina Faso and Libya, and the Asia group reached consensus in support of Vietnam. Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic contested the GRULAC seat, and the Czech Republic and Croatia contested the Eastern Europe seat.

On October 16, the UNGA voted for the non-permanent members. The UNGA traditionally approves by acclamation regional consensus candidates. Burkina Faso, Libya, and Vietnam won election by votes of 185, 183, and 178, respectively, in the first round of voting. For the Eastern Europe group, Croatia held a lead over the Czech Republic through the first two rounds before surpassing the two-thirds majority needed for election with 184 votes in the third round. Costa Rica held a lead over the Dominican Republic through two rounds before receiving 179 votes for election in the third round.

As a matter of longstanding policy, the United States does not reveal its vote in elections either before or after the balloting. After the election, Ambassador Alejandro D. Wolff, the Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, expressed the interest of the United States in working with all the newly-elected members. In reference to Libya, he also said, "On a personal note, I noticed that there were family members from the Pam Am 103

tragedy . . . Their presence was felt here today. I felt it and I know other delegations felt it.” With regard to Vietnam, he noted the burgeoning bilateral relationship and said, “After a very difficult history with Vietnam, we look forward to working with them and congratulate them on their election.”

Security Council Thematic Debates

The UN Security Council (UNSC) took up thematic issues of importance throughout the year.

On January 8, the Security Council held a debate on “Threats to International Peace and Security.” Afterwards, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council that, among other things: committed the Council to work closely with the Secretary General (SYG) to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting the world; reaffirmed its commitment to address the range of threats to international peace and security, including armed conflict, terrorism, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; recognized the essential role of the United Nations in the global effort to combat terrorism and welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; reaffirmed the Council’s resolve to take appropriate and effective actions against any threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery; recognized the importance of more effective international efforts to prevent conflict, including intra-state conflict; underlined the need for improved UN capacity to assess conflict situations and for the effective planning and management of UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs); emphasized the importance of post-conflict peacebuilding to assist countries emerging from conflict in laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development; welcomed the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), which should play an important role in improving UN capacity to coordinate with regional organizations, relevant regional countries, donors, troop contributors, and recipient countries and to perform peacebuilding activities, particularly from the start of peacekeeping operations through stabilization, reconstruction, and development; and underlined the importance of close interaction between the UNSC and the PBC.

On February 20, the Security Council held a meeting entitled “Maintenance of International Peace and Security,” which focused exclusively on security sector reform (SSR). Afterwards, the President of the Security Council made a statement that, among other things: stressed that reforming the security sectors in post-conflict environments was critical to the consolidation of peace and stability, promoting poverty reduction, rule of law and good governance, extending legitimate state authority, and preventing countries from relapsing into conflict; underlined that it was the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities of SSR; recognized the need when mandating a UN operation to consider, as appropriate, the national SSR priorities; underlined that SSR could be a long-term process that continues well beyond

the duration of a PKO; emphasized the important role that the PBC can play in SSR; emphasized that SSR must be context-driven and that needs will vary from situation to situation; encouraged states to formulate SSR programs in a holistic way; acknowledged the need for a comprehensive report by the SYG on UN approaches to SSR; relayed its expectation that the proposed SYG report focus on concrete recommendations on the identification, prioritization, and sequencing of UN support to nationally-owned SSRs that includes recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness and coordination of all UN system entities that support SSR.

On June 25, the Council again took up the issue of “Maintenance of International Peace and Security,” focusing on the role natural resources play in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. Afterwards, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council that, among other things: reaffirmed that every state has the full and inherent sovereign right to control and exploit its own natural resources and that natural resources were a crucial factor in contributing to long-term economic growth and sustainable development; reaffirmed its determination to act against illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources and high-value commodities in areas where it contributed to the outbreak, escalation or continuation of armed conflict; emphasized the importance of the contributions made in the past by existing sanctions committees and the various experts’ groups and panels established by the Council in dealing with the impact of illegal exploitation of natural resources on conflicts in the countries under its consideration; recognized that UN missions and peacekeeping operations could play a role in helping the governments concerned to prevent the illegal exploitation of their resources from further fueling conflict; emphasized the important contribution of commodity monitoring and certification schemes such as the Kimberley Process; recognized the need for the private sector to contribute to good governance and avoidance of illegal exploitation of natural resources; and stressed the important role of transparent and effective national security and customs structures for the effective control and management of natural resources by preventing illegal access to and the trade and exploitation of those resources.

On August 28, the Security Council debated the issues of “Maintenance of International Peace and Security,” emphasizing conflict prevention. Afterwards, the President of the Council, among other things: acknowledged the importance of the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and promoting necessary preventive action in response to threats to international peace and security; recognized the important role of regional organizations in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts; reaffirmed the Council’s commitment to the full and effective implementation of Resolution 1625 (2005) on conflict prevention, particularly in Africa; supported the comprehensive and global approach recommended by the SYG in his report on the prevention of armed conflict (A/60/891); stressed the need for effective coordination between and within UN organs, programs, funds, and agencies involved in policy formulation and implementation to ensure

better coherence of existing mechanisms between PKOs and preventive activities; encouraged the SYG to continue efforts to improve the UN's early warning, mediation support, and other preventive activities; stressed the importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention as applicable and welcomed the growing contribution made by regional organizations in addressing peace and security; underlined the need for a stronger and more structured relationship between the UNSC and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council to contribute to the achievement of the goals of peace and stability; welcomed the work done by the AU to set up its Panel of the Wise and Continental Early Warning System; and recognized the important contribution of sub-regional bodies in conflict prevention.

On June 22, the Security Council held an open debate on "The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict." Afterwards, the President of the Security Council made a press statement on behalf of the Council that: welcomed a briefing by the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, who addressed a range of concerns relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict; welcomed progress in, and increased awareness of, the issues surrounding protection of civilians, but expressed the Council's grave concern that civilians continue to account for the majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict; reaffirmed that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians; encouraged the continuation of concrete steps to enhance the capacity of the UN regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict; recalled the obligations of international humanitarian law regarding the protection of civilians, and urged all parties to conflict to allow full, safe, and unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to civilians; and reaffirmed the Council's intention to remain seized of the matter.

During 2007, the Security Council twice held meetings on the topic of "Women and Peace and Security." After the March 7 meeting, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council that, among other things: reaffirmed its commitment to the full and effective implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women and Peace and Security; reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding; stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution; urged member states to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict; urged the SYG to continue to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf and called on all member states to provide candidates to the SYG for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster; recognized the urgent need to intensify efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations; emphasized the need for the inclusion of gender components in PKOs and welcomed current UN PKO

polices to promote and protect the rights of women; stressed that it remains deeply concerned by the pervasiveness of all forms of violence against women and girls in armed conflict and called on all parties to armed conflict to take specific measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence; stressed the need to end impunity for acts of gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict; and reiterated its call to member states to continue to implement Resolution 1325 (2000), including through the development and implementation of national action plans or strategies.

After the October 23 meeting on “Women and Peace and Security,” the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council that, among other things: recognized the importance of ensuring the respect for the equal rights of women and reaffirmed the importance of the equal role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding; expressed its deep concern that civilians, particularly women and children, continue to account for the vast majority of victims of acts of violence committed by parties to armed conflicts; reaffirmed that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of affected civilians; recognized the constant under-representation of women in formal peace processes and stated its deep concern about persistent obstacles and challenges resulting from situations such as violence against women; stated it remains concerned about the low number of women appointed as Special Representatives or Special Envoys of the SYG to peace missions and urged the SYG to appoint more women to pursue good offices on his behalf; reaffirmed the Council’s call for broader gender mainstreaming in all PKOs and welcomed UN PKO policies to promote and protect the rights of women; took note of the second follow-up report of the SYG on women, peace and security (S/2007/567); called on the SYG to update, monitor, and review the implementation of the UN system-wide action plan on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000); requested the SYG to conduct a system-wide evaluation in 2010 of progress achieved in implementing this plan; condemned all violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law, and refugee law, committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict; stated the Council remained concerned that gender-based violence remains pervasive, and in some situations has become systematic; stressed the need to end impunity for such acts as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking peace, justice, truth, and reconciliation; requested the SYG to include in his reporting to the Council on situations of armed conflict the progress in gender mainstreaming throughout the UN peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions, data on the impact of armed conflicts on women and girls, and special measures proposed and taken to protect women and girls from gender-based violence; and requested the SYG to prepare a follow-up report on the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000).

During 2007, the Security Council held two similar debates on the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. After a meeting on “The Relationship Between the UN and Regional

Organizations, in particular the African Union (AU), in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security” on March 28, the President of the Security Council made a statement, that, among other things: reaffirmed the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security remained with the Security Council; recognized the important role of regional organizations in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts; welcomed the growing contribution made by the AU to address and solve conflicts on the African continent and stressed the need for the AU to keep the Security Council fully informed of these efforts in a comprehensive and coordinated manner; recognized that regional organizations were well-positioned to understand the root causes of many conflicts close to home and to influence their prevention or resolution, owing to their knowledge of the region; stressed that common and co-coordinated efforts undertaken by the UN and regional organizations should be based on their comparative advantages; recognized the PBC as a forum for coordination between the UN system and regional and sub-regional organizations; recognized that in some cases, the AU may be authorized by the Security Council to deal with collective security challenges on the African continent; and stressed the importance of supporting and improving in a sustained way the resource base and capacity of the AU and requested the SYG to provide a report on specific proposals on how the UN can better support arrangement for further cooperation and coordination with regional organizations.

After the November 6 Security Council meeting on the “Role of Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,” the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council, that, among other things: reaffirmed the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security remained with the Security Council; recognized the important role of regional and sub-regional organizations in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts; emphasized the growing contribution made by regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security; recalled its determination to take appropriate steps to further the development of cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations; underlined the importance of exploring the potential and existing capacities of regional and sub-regional organizations in the field of peace and security; stressed the potential role of regional and sub-regional organizations in addressing illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Council’s subsidiary bodies with responsibilities in counter-terrorism to foster cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations; and requested the SYG to include in his report pursuant to the Council’s Presidential Statement of March 28 a recommendation on practical ways and means to increase and strengthen cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations.

Terrorism

In 2007, the United Nations continued to be a leading force in countering international terrorism. The United States supported the UN's efforts in the Security Council's terrorism and nonproliferation related committees: the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) created pursuant to Resolution 1373; the 1267 al-Qaida/Taliban/Usama bin Laden Sanctions Committee; and the 1540 (non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction) Committee, as well as in the UN General Assembly.

The Security Council adopted one resolution and 11 Presidential Statements (PRSTs) directly related to terrorism in 2007. Resolution 1787 extended the mandate of the CTC and that of its supporting staff of experts, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED). The United States supported 10 PRSTs condemning international terrorist attacks and one PRST reaffirming the importance of international cooperation and compliance with the requirements of Resolution 1540 in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The CTC, established by Security Council Resolution 1373 after the events of September 11, 2001, continued its work as the leading counter-terrorism body of the Security Council. The United States actively supported the appointment of the new CTED Director in September 2007; supported the adoption of 50 Preliminary Implementation Assessments (PIAs), which serve as an analytical tool to measure countries' progress on implementing Resolution 1373; and continued to promote closer cooperation and coordination between the CTC and CTED and other UN and international organizations' counter-terrorism efforts. This included continued support for greater coordination in facilitating and coordinating counter-terrorism technical assistance to member states.

The United States continued to refer names of individuals and entities for inclusion on the 1267 Sanctions Committee Consolidated List. This is a list of individuals and entities associated with al-Qaida, the Taliban, and Usama bin Laden, subject to international sanctions — asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes — that all UN member states are obligated to implement. The United States sponsored the successful listing of eight individuals to the Consolidated Sanctions List in 2007 and provided the other members of the Committee with sufficient explanatory information on the individuals and entities for the Committee to determine whether they should be added.

The United States and France proposed creation of a "focal point" procedure for de-listings, which was adopted by the Council in Resolution 1730 and became operational in March 2007. The new Focal Point mechanism will ensure that all sanctioned persons seeking to be de-listed from any UN sanctions list have a forum to submit their petitions and that petitions will be fairly considered by the Committee. These new procedures have made de-listing procedures clearer, more accessible, and more uniform.

The United States continued its support of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy (Strategy), a UN plan to enhance national, regional, and international efforts to counter terrorism. The Strategy, adopted during the 61st General Assembly in September 2006, marked the first time that all UN member states agreed to a common strategic approach to fighting terrorism. The United States pledged to provide funding for two of the UN Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force working groups established to address radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism and strengthening the protection of vulnerable targets.

The UN Security Council established its 1540 Committee on non-proliferation after deciding in Resolution 1540 “that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery.” The United States supported the adoption of a PRST backing the 1540 Committee on February 23, 2007. The PRST reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and compliance with the requirements of Resolution 1540 in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in 2007 remained at an impasse over a provision, which the United States and like-minded countries supported, exempting state military forces from the scope of the Convention because other provisions of international law already govern their activities. Negotiations also failed to resolve the question of whether the CCIT should include language that could be used to argue that terrorists claiming to act in the name of national liberation movements were excluded from the scope of the Convention. The United States continued to take the position that any provision of this nature would undermine the credibility of UN and member states’ counterterrorism efforts.

Economic and Social Affairs

Economic and Development Issues

Development Bodies and Programs

Commission on Sustainable Development

In December 1992, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as a functional commission to follow up implementation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Rio Earth Summit. Based at UN Headquarters in New York, the CSD is composed of 53 UN members, elected to three-year terms. During its first decade, the CSD met formally four weeks annually to consider specific sustainable development issues and to promote implementation of internationally agreed development goals. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, governments called for specific reforms of the CSD, including limiting negotiations in the sessions of the Commission to every two years, limiting the number of themes addressed at each session, and having CSD serve as a focal point for discussing partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made, and best practices.

The United States has been a member of the Commission since its inception. Following the WSSD, the United States actively advanced ideas for how the CSD could implement reforms to serve as a stronger catalyst for action. At the CSD's 11th Session (April-May 2003), the United States worked closely with other CSD members to develop a multi-year program of work to address a series of "thematic clusters" and cross-cutting issues in two-year "implementation cycles." The first cycle (2003-2005) focused on water, sanitation, and human settlement issues. The second cycle (2005-2007) focused on energy-related issues: energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. It was decided that the 2008-2009 cycle would address agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa. Each two-year cycle includes a non-negotiating "review year" to assess the state of implementation and to provide a venue to focus on sustainable development partnerships and capacity-building activities. The second half of each cycle is a "policy year" to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year.

Global Compact Leaders Summit

On July 2-5, 2007, the United States participated in the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit at the UN Office in Geneva. The summit is held

every three years, and is a forum to discuss corporate social responsibility. Over 1,000 chief executive officers, government ministers, heads of civil society and labor organizations from all over the world attended the event. The summit members adopted a chairman's summary document. During the summit and in the document, the United States achieved its objectives of demonstrating the U.S. Government's support for voluntary private sector engagement on human rights, labor standards, the environment, and anti-corruption, and for reinforcing our message on the importance of voluntary public-private partnerships to achieve development goals.

Regional Economic Commissions

There are five regional economic commissions that report to the UN Economic and Social Council. The United States is a member of three: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The regional commissions are funded out of the regular UN budget, of which the United States pays 22 percent, as well as through voluntary contributions. They are charged with "raising the level of economic activity" within their respective regions and "maintaining and strengthening economic relations" both among themselves and with other countries of the world. U.S. participation in regional commissions advances and safeguards U.S. foreign policy and commercial interests in these regions.

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), headquartered in Geneva, was established in 1947 to encourage economic cooperation within Europe and between Europe and other countries with close trade and business ties. ECE membership consists of 56 countries, including those of Western Europe, as well as the United States, Canada, Israel, Turkey, and the Central Asian and Caucasian states of the former Soviet Union. In December 2005, the UN Secretary-General appointed Marek Belka (Poland) as Executive Secretary. The ECE is traditionally a "standards-setting" and coordination body in many technical fields, such as in e-commerce, energy, the environment, vehicle construction, road safety, timber and agricultural produce, border crossing, and statistical collection. Many ECE standards are adopted around the world. U.S. Government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation, regularly participate in working groups and chair committees. The U.S. Chief Statistician is a vice-chair of the Conference of European Statisticians, which coordinates statistical methodology across the region and serves as a forum for international harmonization in statistics. Since 2005, many member states, including the United States, have been urging the ECE to devote more time to capacity building, particularly in countries in transition like the Central Asian and Caucasian states, by offering workshops on standards and related issues. The ECE created a new Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships in 2007, co-chaired by an American

and including three U.S. private sector participants. At the 62nd Plenary in 2007, the ECE decided to hold biennial meetings; the next plenary will take place in 2009.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was established in 1948. The 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are member states of ECLAC, together with several North American, Asian, and European nations that have historical, economic, and cultural ties with the region, reaching a total of 44 member states. The United States is a full member with voting privileges. ECLAC also has eight associate members, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commission is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, with two sub-regional offices for Mexico and for the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago). It also has offices in Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Washington. Executive Secretary Jose Luis Machinea (Argentina) completed his fourth year as head of the organization in 2007.

ECLAC's mission is to improve cooperation among member states and international entities to advance economic and social development in the region. Although it previously advocated closed markets and state-run economies, ECLAC has come to recognize some of the benefits of trade liberalization and privatization. It has also made a name for itself by providing excellent technical assistance in data collection for census purposes. Many Caribbean and Latin American countries are using ECLAC's resources and expertise to conduct demographic and other data collection at the country level.

In July 2007, ECLAC held its fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. The conference objectives were to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; promote international, regional, and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies; and draw up a biennial program of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources. Issues discussed at the conference included the Millennium Development Goals, the 2010 census round, and the credibility and autonomy of institution-building in national statistical offices. U.S. Census Bureau officials attended the conference.

Also in July, the Republic of Korea officially became a member state of ECLAC. In Quito in August, ECLAC held its tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States did not participate. Throughout the year, the organization held several meetings on technical issues ranging from aging, population matters, sustainable development and climate change to investment and trade.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has 62 members and associate members. Headquartered in

Bangkok, ESCAP provides technical support to member governments on a wide array of socio-economic development issues, such as macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction, and inclusive development; trade and investment; transport; environment and development; information, communication, and space technology and disaster risk reduction; social development; and statistics. Its five regional institutions also provide technical expertise on a range of issues. During the annual meetings in Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 17-23, 2007, the United States achieved its objective of maintaining the size of the organization's budget and scope of activities. In August 2007, the UN Secretary-General appointed Ms. Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore) to be the new Executive Secretary-General for ESCAP; she is the first woman to head the organization.

UN Children's Fund

The UN General Assembly created the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children after World War II. UNICEF has broadened its efforts to help children by providing both humanitarian assistance and long-term development aid targeted at children and families. UNICEF has 139 offices and a presence in more than 150 countries, as some offices cover more than one country. Its programs address children's health, sanitation, nutrition, basic education, and protection needs, wherever possible through low-cost interventions at the family and community levels. UNICEF's total 2007 expenditures were \$2,798 million, a 19 percent increase over 2006. Expenditures on program assistance increased by \$398 million to \$2,517 million. Combined expenditures on program support (\$156 million), management and administration (\$84 million), including centrally-shared security costs (\$10 million), increased by \$32 million (15 percent) to \$250 million. In 2007, UNICEF's contributions from all sources of funds (regular resources and other resources) reached \$3,013 million, an increase of eight percent over 2006 levels.

As a respected authority on children and their well-being, UNICEF typically works through broad partnerships with developing countries, bilateral donors, and non-governmental organizations. UNICEF programs target vulnerable and marginalized children and their families and are intended to improve the capacity of national governments to respond to their needs. The United States has worked to ensure that UNICEF maintains strong operational capabilities. A significant proportion of UNICEF's work, however, is tied to advocacy, capacity-building, piloting and disseminating best practices, and doing research on problems affecting children.

The United States has been a member of UNICEF's Executive Board, now comprised of 36 member states each serving three-year terms, since the Fund's inception. In 2006, the United States began another term running until 2009. Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has served as UNICEF's Executive Director since 2005.

UNICEF has capabilities to provide rapid and cost-effective delivery of medicines and materials in support of national and international efforts. In

2007, UNICEF procured 3.2 billion doses of vaccines reaching 55 percent of children in developing countries and worked to ensure not only the distribution, but also the development and availability of life-saving vaccines and drugs for children. For example, in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (of which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are a partner), UNICEF procured 2.3 billion doses of oral polio vaccines. Also in 2007, UNICEF procured 234 million doses of measles vaccine, 119 million doses of tuberculosis vaccine, and 174 million doses of tetanus vaccine.

Child survival remains the top U.S. policy priority for UNICEF. UNICEF is a key U.S. partner worldwide on many issues, including polio eradication; child protection; providing safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene; and combating diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. The United States also engaged with UNICEF in 2007 on the UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative. While UNICEF has implemented a number of management reforms aimed at improving its organizational transparency and accountability, such as developing a results-based budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, work remains to be done, especially in implementing a comprehensive ethics framework and ensuring the operational independence of its internal oversight mechanism.

The United States continued to encourage UNICEF to play a leadership role in efforts to harmonize and simplify UN development activities, particularly at the national level. In dealing with joint programming between UNICEF and other UN agencies, UNICEF's collaboration is based on evidence of efficiency gains in programming, takes account of the need to maintain distinct lines of financial accountability to donors, and recognizes the separate identities and roles of UN agencies.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) established a "clustered" approach to improve the UN's response to humanitarian disasters. Under this approach, UNICEF is responsible for the water and sanitation, nutrition and feeding, and protection sectors. UNICEF is also an active participant in the UN Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), a mechanism through which humanitarian organizations plan, implement, and monitor their activities as well as appeal for donor support of humanitarian assistance programs. UNICEF is strengthening its emergency response capacity, including by reinforcing its Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) in emergencies. The United States has supported UNICEF's role in emergencies and its work in Iraq and Afghanistan.

UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is a Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established in 1992 as a result of restructuring. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), based in Geneva, serves as secretariat for CSTD through its Division of Investment, Technology, and Enterprise Development (DITE).

The Commission has 43 member states, elected for four-year terms using a method of staggered rotation within each regional group. The composition is as follows: Africa, 11; Asia, 8; Latin American and Caribbean, 8; Eastern Europe, 5; and Western Europe and Other States, 10.

The Commission meets annually for one week in Geneva, choosing a biennial theme. There is also an additional intercessional meeting each year, usually hosted by the country-elected chair of the CSTD Bureau.

The CSTD is mandated to provide ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) with advice and guidelines on relevant science and technology (S&T) issues through analysis, reporting, and policy recommendations. The CSTD is a forum for examining, understanding, and advancing science and technology questions and policies and their implications for development in the multilateral context, particularly in relation to developing countries. In 2006, the CSTD received an additional mandate to review and assess the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This entails collating UN and partner body responses on WSIS action items and compiling a yearly status report with recommendations.

The themes, the setting of which is a new development, are two-fold each biennium, with one focused on information and communication technologies to reflect the WSIS mandate and the other on traditional science and technology issues. The themes for 2008-2009 are: development-oriented policies for a socio-economic-inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure, and an enabling environment; and science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity building in education and research.

The 11th Session in Geneva in May 2007 produced a resolution detailing progress on WSIS implementation and featured discussion on the themes that will feed into more substantive discussion and a more formal report in 2009.

Encouraged by a reorganization and new mandate, the United States rejoined the CSTD in 2007, after having left in 1997. The decision to rejoin the CSTD has positioned the United States to engage proactively on issues important to developing countries and to help guide and contribute to the assessment of WSIS implementation. It also offers the opportunity to: promote the empowerment of science and technology for development through information and communications technologies; highlight U.S. scientific and technological contributions and best practices; encourage science-based decision-making on critical development topics; and promote U.S. expertise and efforts in offering guidance and S&T-based capacity building for development.

UN Conference on Trade and Development

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a permanent forum for discussions on trade and development issues and funded

through UN regular assessments, functions through a variety of intergovernmental groups. These are its governing body, the Trade and Development Board; three Commissions (one each on trade, investment, and enterprises); and a quadrennial Ministerial Conference. In addition, UNCTAD hosts about eight expert meetings annually on issues related to trade and development. Based in Geneva, UNCTAD has 192 member states. Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand) assumed his position as UNCTAD Secretary-General on September 1, 2005.

During 2007, member states built consensus in favor of reforms to the UNCTAD Secretariat and its intergovernmental process proposed by the Eminent Person's Group in its June 2006 report. Member states agreed on the theme for the quadrennial conference to be held in Accra, Ghana in April 2008, which is "addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development." Member states also agreed on four sub-themes for the conference: sustainable economic development and poverty reduction, trade, investment, and reforms to strengthen UNCTAD. These themes provide the structure for the negotiation of a new four-year work program for UNCTAD and for an assessment by the international community of policy issues in these areas. Along with preparing for the quadrennial conference and negotiation of its outcome document, UNCTAD in 2007 implemented several reforms to increase budget transparency and accountability. It also made positive research contributions to promote trade, investment, and development through its World Investment Report and country-specific Investment Policy Reviews.

The United States has been an active participant in UNCTAD since its founding in 1964. This engagement is based on a conviction that free trade is a vital avenue for development and results in strong encouragement for UNCTAD's work on trade and investment facilitation. As of end 2007, the United States was the third largest voluntary funder of UNCTAD's technical assistance programs, with major contributions to UNCTAD's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) software program. Over the past 25 years, countries that have adopted the ASYCUDA customs program have consistently and dramatically reduced corruption and increased government revenues from customs administration. The United States has also supported UNCTAD's work in investment policy reviews and the development of databases that enable countries to find markets for their products and to search investment agreements and tariff data.

In January 2007, UNCTAD's Deputy Secretary-General, who held the senior "donor country" post in the organization, passed away unexpectedly. The United States and several European countries proposed well-qualified candidates for the position, which remained vacant. The head of the UNCTAD's Trade and Investment Division, who is from India, has acted as temporary deputy to the organization.

UN Development Program

The UN Development Program (UNDP) is the leading development agency of the United Nations. It is headquartered in New York, with field

offices in over 130 developing countries and regions. The United States is a member of the 36-state UNDP Executive Board that governs the organization.

The United States is a top contributor to UNDP, providing over \$100 million in 2007 to support the organization and its general programming costs.

Combating poverty through the promotion of economic growth is a top U.S. policy objective. At the September 2007 Executive Board session, the United States issued a call for UNDP to increase the focus of its programs and resources on assisting African countries in the efforts to achieve and sustain the Millennium Development Goals, a set of time-bound development objectives related to reducing poverty and hunger, improving health and education, and combating major diseases.

Reforming UNDP management practices and improving oversight of UNDP programs has also been a U.S. priority. During 2007, the United States launched the UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative (UNTAI) to strengthen a number of critical functions within UNDP, including internal oversight, financial disclosure, ethics office independence, disclosure of internal audit and oversight reports, public access to program and budget documents, transparency of procurement practices, and whistleblower protections. UNDP management responded positively to the U.S. initiative and began in 2007 to make progress in some areas.

In early 2007, following revelations of mismanagement of UNDP's program in North Korea, the United States worked with the Executive Board to press for corrective action, which included setting operating conditions for continued program activities and initiating an audit of country operations. UNDP suspended its program in North Korea in early 2007 after the North Korean government refused to abide by the conditions established by the Executive Board.

UNDP's four-year strategic plan concluded in 2007. During this period the organization focused on five goals: reducing poverty, fostering democratic governance, managing energy and the environment for sustainable development, supporting crisis prevention and recovery, and responding to HIV/AIDS. UNDP remained a valuable partner in promoting democracy, good governance, poverty reduction, and private sector development, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development.

UN Human Settlements Program

In 2001, the UN General Assembly converted the 58-member UN Center on Human Settlements to a full program of the General Assembly: the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT). UN-HABITAT's work focuses on the development of sustainable human settlements with access to basic services, such as water and sanitation. UN-HABITAT is also the UN focal point for efforts to achieve the Millennium Declaration goal of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The creation of the new UN-HABITAT program marked a significant achievement in the reform agenda of the United States, which had pressed for

an overhaul of the former Center after the 1996 Habitat II Conference in Istanbul and had cut off voluntary contributions. Following the complete restructuring of the organization by new management, the United States supported the granting of program status and resumed voluntary contributions.

UN-HABITAT is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, and is led by Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka (Tanzania). Mrs. Tibaijuka was re-elected by the General Assembly to a second four-year term in 2006 after having served since September 2000 as Director of the Center on Human Settlements. UN-HABITAT's Governing Council meets every two years, most recently in April 2007, and UN-HABITAT sponsors the World Urban Forum in the intervening years. The next World Urban Forum will take place in Nanjing, China, in November 2008. States are elected to the Governing Council through regional groups for four-year terms. The United States was re-elected in 2006 for another term by the Western Europe and Other Group.

UN-HABITAT's activities in 2007 were aligned with U.S. foreign policy objectives pertaining to economic freedom, good governance, democracy building (through decentralization of power to local authorities), gender equality, and the mobilization of domestic resources. The United States worked to clarify UN-HABITAT's role as a catalyst to advance work on human settlements through normative (research and data-collection) and capacity-building work, supplemented by operational activities, including pilot projects. Overall, UN-HABITAT performed its role as a catalyst well and continued to focus more on operational activities such as the Slum Upgrading Facility and the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operation, which aims to strengthen national human settlement programs by providing seed capital and other credit enhancements, as well as technical assistance to mobilize domestic resources for housing and related infrastructure services.

To assist developing countries in managing urbanization, UN-HABITAT gathers data on cities and promotes best practices in fields related to human settlements and the role of local authorities. Its technical arm works with local authorities and national governments to develop and decentralize services. During 2007, with the active collaboration of the Committee of Permanent Representatives based in Nairobi, UN-HABITAT developed a Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) for 2008-2013. The MTSIP aims to improve efficiency and effectiveness by establishing Results-Based Management and implementing other important internal and UN-wide reforms, including developing clearly defined indicators, targets, and priorities for UN-HABITAT's work in the six focus areas established in the MTSIP. The MTSIP also provides for experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing.

The April 2007 Governing Council (GC) adopted a resolution approving the MTSIP. The GC also approved resolutions on: sustainable public-private partnerships to catalyze private sector activity and to energize housing markets; a feasibility study on an African fund/financing mechanism on slum prevention and upgrading; guidelines on decentralization and

strengthening local authorities; and on women's land and property rights and access to finance. UN-HABITAT has been working to put these GC requests into action. During the year, UN-HABITAT's Slum Upgrading Facility and Water and Sanitation programs showed good progress in their pilot phases.

Environment

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 as a joint effort of the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Program. The IPCC conducts periodic assessments of studies on the science of climate change, its potential impacts, and ways countries adapt and seek to mitigate climate change. The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), involving contributions from several hundred experts, was issued in 2007.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) rose out of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and entered into force on December 26, 1996. With 193 parties, this convention is designed to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought on arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid lands, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements. The UNCCD is unique because it addresses the problem of desertification through a bottom-up approach, by empowering local people to take the lead in identifying innovative approaches to sustainable agricultural development. The Convention aims to achieve these goals by reprioritizing existing aid resources to make them more effective in addressing desertification issues. In particular, the UNCCD is intended to address the fundamental causes of famine and food insecurity by stimulating more effective partnerships among governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and aid donors and by encouraging the dissemination of information derived from new technologies.

The United States has been a party to the UNCCD since 1996 and actively engaged in its activities. The United States recently served as chair for one of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, the Committee on Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) for a two-year term. In 2007, the United States served as the Japan/United States/Canada/Australia/New Zealand (JUSCANZ) group representative on the Convention's governing Bureau, as well as actively participated in all eight of the Conference of the Parties meetings and played a prominent role in the other subsidiary body, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Continued U.S. participation in, and support for, the UNCCD helps to advance U.S. approaches to sustainable land management issues and sustainable agriculture practices for arid, dry, and sub-humid lands. In particular, interventions by the United States were critical for the Convention's movement into an effective new implementation phase. In the 10-Year Strategic Plan approved during the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 8) in Madrid, Spain in

September 2007, parties stressed the need to move the Convention to a results-based management approach. To implement the Strategic Plan, the Secretariat is currently preparing a multi-year strategic work plan, under the guidance of the Bureau, on which the United States has a seat, and a costed out biennial work program. In fall 2008, the subsidiary bodies of the UNCCD, the CST, and the CRIC will meet to review these work plans and discuss how best to capture success on the ground and scale-up the many on-going local, national, and regional efforts to combat desertification. The United States actively engages in both the CST and CRIC meetings, which provide opportunities to emphasize effectively implementing the results-based management approach outlined by the Strategic Plan and to review thoroughly its implementation with other Parties.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force in March 1994. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The United States ratified the UNFCCC in 1992; today, 191 countries have ratified the Convention. The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC entered into force in February 2005. This Protocol requires developed nations to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent below 1990 levels during the period 2008–2012 (The United States would have had to reduce its emissions by seven percent below 1990 levels had it ratified the Protocol). As the Kyoto Protocol exempts developing countries from binding emission targets, including some of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, and would harm the U.S. economy, President Bush said in March 2001 that the United States would not ratify the Protocol, a decision consistent with the recommendation of Senate Resolution 98, approved in July 1997, by a vote of 95-0.

During the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP 13) in December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, parties adopted the “Bali Roadmap,” launching negotiations for a post-2012 climate framework, to be completed by 2009. The Roadmap achieves key U.S. objectives, including the establishment of a negotiating process with a clear end date and of securing a commitment from developing as well as developed countries to consider meaningful actions to reduce emissions. Further, the United States initiated the Major Economies Process, which will feed into the UNFCCC negotiations, helping to ensure that the 2009 agreement is environmentally effective and economically sustainable. The Bali outcome also allows for input from the President's Major Economies Process. Leading up to the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP 14) in Poznan, Poland in December 2008, the UNFCCC planned to convene a series of global meetings to address specific issues.

The United States is engaged in extensive domestic and international efforts on climate change. The Energy Independence and Security Act of December 2007 introduced substantial new mandatory domestic programs to

address energy security and climate change; these measures will reduce CO₂ emissions by six billion metric tons by 2030. Fifteen bilateral climate change partnerships encompass over 450 activities with countries and regional organizations that, together with the United States, represent over 80 percent of the world's emissions. Since 2002, the U.S. Government has initiated multiple international partnerships to promote development and deployment of key climate change-related energy technologies. These include the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy, the Methane-to-Markets Partnership, and Gen IV International Forum. Continued U.S. participation in, and support for, the UNFCCC help to advance U.S. approaches to climate change issues.

UN Environment Program

The UN Environment Program (UNEP), founded in 1972, is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, and has six regional offices (Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia). Its Governing Council consists of 58 member states, including the United States. The United Nations General Assembly elects members from different regional groupings for four-year terms. UNEP's Executive Director (ED) Achim Steiner was elected in June 2006 by the General Assembly after being nominated by the UN Secretary-General. ED Steiner undertook program-wide reform and reorganization within UNEP, including the drafting of a results-oriented Medium-Term Strategy to focus UNEP's work and transform UNEP into a more effective and accountable organization. The 10th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) in Monaco scheduled for February 2008 was set to adopt several decisions, including endorsement of the Medium-Term Strategy and its thematic priorities as a basis for the 2010-2011 Program of Work and Budget to be adopted at the February 2009 Governing Council.

UNEP sets the environmental agenda within the UN system, addressing environmental problems that transcend borders and potentially affect the health and prosperity of U.S. citizens. Active involvement in UNEP helps the United States promote sustainable development and protect the environment by combating global environmental degradation. Involvement in UNEP also promotes the interests of U.S. industry, which is directly affected by evolving international environmental standards. Chemicals are an area of particular interest. In 2006, the United States negotiated the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), establishing broad voluntary standards for producing and transporting chemicals worldwide. The United States has also provided funding to support operation of the Secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (for the international movement of chemicals). In addition, the United States has been the main supporter of the UNEP Mercury Program, which is aimed at helping

countries reduce global mercury. UNEP also contributes to regional stability through work in areas affected by conflict.

The United States strongly supports work done in UNEP's core programs, such as early warning and assessment of environmental threats, the regional seas program, capacity-building for domestic environmental governance in developing countries, and the global program of action to combat land-based sources of marine pollution. The United States values UNEP's monitoring and assessment activities, as well as its work to publicize emerging environmental trends, especially in regional fora where national responsibilities do not take precedence.

The United States was instrumental in the negotiations culminating in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building in 2005 and is working with UNEP and its members to mainstream capacity-building within the regular programs of UNEP. As a part of this effort to focus UNEP's programs on implementation, the United States has encouraged UNEP to strengthen its linkages with scientific institutions and is assisting developing nations to improve their ability to monitor and assess environmental change and implement multilateral environmental agreements. As prescribed by paragraph 169 of the World Summit Outcome Document of September 2005, the United Nations in 2006 initiated a two-track review to improve coordination and efficiency of its environmental activities. This process has resulted in an ongoing debate within the General Assembly on "International Environmental Governance," which could affect UNEP and its program of work.

Population

UN Commission on Population and Development

The UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD) advises the UN Economic and Social Council on population changes, including migration, and their effects on economic and social conditions. It is also charged by the General Assembly to monitor, review, and assess implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994.

The CPD held its 40th Session on April 9-13, 2007, in New York on the theme of "The Changing Age Structure of Populations and Implications for Development." UN Population Division Director Zlotnik's opening statement focused on how the demographic transition in which a population goes from high fertility and high mortality to low fertility and low mortality leads to many other changes in societies. Developed countries are well advanced in this transition, with aging populations and decreasing numbers of working age persons. In contrast, many of the least developed countries are at the earliest stages of this transition, with several still experiencing high fertility and mortality – the latter due primarily to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. UN Population Fund Director Obaid emphasized the importance of including the interests of young people when making policy decisions, especially in

developing countries. The U.S. National Institute of Aging hosted a highly praised and well-attended side event entitled “Comparative Global Research on Aging.” The United States joined consensus on the two resolutions adopted at the session on the theme and the Commission’s method of work. The U.S. delegation delivered an Explanation of Position on references in the resolution to reproductive health and the ICPD.

UN Population Fund

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) provides funding for population and reproductive health care programs in over 140 countries. UNFPA supports maternal, child, and reproductive health care and family planning programs worldwide and works on issues of gender empowerment, child marriage, and violence against women. UNFPA provides assistance in the framework of 3-to-5-year country plans, developed jointly with the recipient country and approved by the Executive Board.

The United Nations Secretary-General appointed Thoraya Ahmed Obaid (Saudi Arabia) to be the Executive Director of UNFPA in 2001. The Secretary-General extended her tenure for another term, which will end in December 2008. The United States is a member of UNFPA’s Executive Board and participates actively in the decision-making processes to safeguard U.S. interests.

In recent years, the United States determined that UNFPA’s support of and involvement in China’s birth-planning activities facilitated the practice of coercive abortions. Under the Kemp-Kasten Amendment, this situation precludes U.S. funding for UNFPA.

The United States worked closely with UNFPA management in 2007 to improve the organization’s transparency and accountability to ensure the effective use of resources and program monitoring. The United States launched the UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative (UNTAI) to strengthen governance and oversight throughout the UN system, including UNFPA.

UNTAI is drawn from existing reforms of the UN Secretariat to apply common standards throughout the UN system in eight areas:

- Operational independence of the internal oversight function;
- Disclosure of internal audit and oversight reports to member states on request;
- Public access to relevant information related to the organization’s operations, including program and budget documents, information on procurement activities, and administrative policies;
- Independent ethics function;
- “Whistleblower” protections against retaliation for reporting misconduct and/or cooperating with the internal oversight function;
- Financial disclosure program;

- Full implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards; and
- Transparent administrative support costs.

Social Issues

Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD), a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), consists of 46 member states. It meets annually in New York and held its 45th session from February 7-16, 2007. CSocD is the United Nations body charged with follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

In Resolution 2005/11, ECOSOC decided that CSocD would be organized as a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, beginning with the 2007 session. The sessions would include a policy segment and the Commission would continue to review programs of action pertaining to social groups. The theme for the 2007-2008 review was “Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work for All.” Member states reviewed documents on the World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, the World Program of Action for Youth, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, and family issues, policies, and programs.

At its 2007 session, CSocD adopted resolutions on “Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,” “Modalities for the First Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, 2000,” “Youth,” and “Supplement to the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.” Under the topic of emerging issues, it discussed “Youth Employment, Impacts, Challenges, and Opportunities for Social Development.” The United States gave an explanation of position regarding the Supplement to the World Program of Action for Youth. The statement addressed, among other things, the necessary conditions to promote job creation, decent work, and economic growth; U.S. commitment to integrating persons with disabilities into the workplace and the community; and the importance of giving youth access to education and training.

The Commission also considered the proposed program of work for the 2008-2009 biennium and heard statements from the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and its Special Rapporteur on Disability.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Negotiations on the draft UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Disabilities Convention) began in 2003. Early during the negotiations on the Convention, the U.S. delegation stated that given the complexity of regulations and enforcement mechanisms needed to ensure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities, it would be more productive for

nations to strengthen their domestic legal frameworks related to non-discrimination and equality rather than to negotiate a new UN convention. For this reason, the United States made clear that it did not intend to become a party to the treaty, and the executive branch has not conducted a careful review of the text to determine whether it is consistent with existing U.S. law.

At the same time, the United States clarified that it would join constructively in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities, which negotiated the language of the treaty. The United States was very active in negotiations, in fact contributing to the strength of sections on political participation of persons with disabilities and on end-of-life issues.

The concluding five weeks of negotiations on the draft Disabilities Convention took place January-February and August 2006. At the August 2006 session, the United States called for a vote on a preambular paragraph, forced into the text by the Arab Group, containing a reference to protecting persons with disabilities from the impact of "foreign occupation." The vote was 102 – 5(U.S.) – 8. Australia, Canada, Israel, and Japan voted with the United States. Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Korea, Niger, Nigeria, and Serbia abstained. The United States then joined consensus on moving the text forward to the fall 2006 UN General Assembly (UNGA) for action.

At the UNGA on December 13, 2006, the United States joined consensus on adopting the Convention with an Explanation of Position (EOP) on the preambular paragraph citing foreign occupation and the article on health containing the term "reproductive health." The EOP stated that the reference in this human rights convention to armed conflict and foreign occupation, which are governed by international humanitarian law and not human rights law, would create legal confusion. It also stated that the United States understood the phrase "reproductive health" did not include abortion, did not create any abortion rights, and could not be interpreted to constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion.

The active U.S. role in the disabilities negotiations was aimed at advancing U.S. policy interests, including promoting democratic values such as non-discrimination and equal treatment, condemning torture, and promoting health and U.S. values on social issues. The United States was pleased to have contributed to improving the Convention, recognizing that there was much good in it. The treaty emphasizes the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and contains important provisions on a variety of important subjects, including opposition to torture and degrading treatment of persons with disabilities; informed consent for genetic testing, medical research, and scientific experimentation; prohibition against involuntary sterilization; access to justice; political participation; health; the crucial role of the family; and end-of-life issues. In 2007, while the United States continued to believe that efforts on domestic legal regimes were a more fruitful focus and that its own domestic standards were a useful model, the United States fully understood

that other nations may wish to commit to these worthy provisions in the form of ratification.

The Convention will enter into force on May 3, 2008. The Convention received its 20th ratification on April 3, 2008, triggering the entry into force of the Convention and its Optional Protocol 30 days later.

UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and UN Office on Drugs and Crime

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) is the principal United Nations policy-making body on criminal justice issues. The 40-member Commission convenes annually at the UN Office in Vienna. Many decisions from these annual sessions are forwarded to the UN Economic and Social Council for endorsement. The United States is an active member of the Crime Commission and is substantially engaged in both the plenary discussions and the resolution negotiations in the Committee of the Whole.

The 16th session of the UN Crime Commission convened April 23-27, 2007. The United States proposed and facilitated a thematic discussion of commercial sexual exploitation of children as well as introduced and co-sponsored a resolution on “Effective Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Sexual Exploitation of Children” that received wide support from other member states. Additionally, the United States and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) co-sponsored a screening of the movie “Human Trafficking,” followed by expert discussion attended by over 500 people. The Commission adopted a total of 13 resolutions, including approving the UNODC Strategy for 2008-2011, which the United States was instrumental in creating. This strategy will enable UNODC to focus its efforts on agreed priorities and enhance the ability of the U.S. and other member states to monitor better the implementation of UNODC programs. The strategy was also approved by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

U.S. efforts to work with countries such as Brazil and Indonesia before the start of the Commission were critical to the success of an Indonesian resolution regarding illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber and wildlife, which had failed to achieve consensus during the previous year’s meeting. Active outreach by the U.S. delegation before and during the Commission brought the various points of view to agreement on a resolution that served to raise awareness of this important issue. The United States was forced to disassociate from consensus on one resolution related to the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Congress) due to potential financial implications on the UN regular budget. This resolution established regional preparatory meetings in advance of the 12th Crime Congress. The U.S. delegation expressed the view that these preparatory meetings did not reflect an efficient utilization of the resources of the regular budget of the United Nations.

The United States used its statements at the Commission to voice its strong support for implementing and ratifying the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the universal legal instruments against terrorism, and it urged other states to join the United States in contributing resources for technical assistance in implementing the conventions.

UNCAC entered into force on December 14, 2006. In 2007, the United States played an instrumental leadership role in a number of areas and helped increase the level of international attention to this important instrument. Working closely with UNODC, the United States drafted a self-assessment checklist to assist with information gathering from parties to the Convention regarding its implementation. This checklist was extremely well-received and over 50 countries responded in less than one year. The United States helped create and participated in a pilot review project to test various methods for reviewing implementation of the UNCAC. In addition, the United States attended UNCAC working groups on asset recovery, technical assistance, and review of implementation.

The U.S. Department of Justice is using the UNCAC as a mechanism for mutual legal assistance in at least four pending cases involving countries in Asia and Africa.

UNTOC entered into force in 2003. During 2007, the United States participated in UNTOC expert working groups on special investigative techniques and a working group on technical assistance. Also in 2007, the U.S. participated in a Steering Group Committee on International Cooperation to advance the extradition and mutual legal assistance provisions of the UNTOC. The Steering Group approved and contributed to the design of a series of workshops to provide countries with practical application of the UNTOC in the area of international cooperation. The 4th UNTOC Conference of the Parties will be held in October 2008. The United States has used the UNTOC as a basis for mutual legal assistance and extradition in at least 15 cases around the world.

In its role as Secretariat to the UNTOC and its protocols, UNODC also promotes the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons. During 2007, the United States was heavily engaged in the development of UNODC's United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), a project initiated as a result of a contribution by the United Arab Emirates. The United States specifically provided guidance and recommendations on various regional events and suggested speakers.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), both based in Vienna, support U.S. drug control objectives. The UN drug control conventions (the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention against

the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) provide the framework for international drug control. This framework includes: prohibiting the cultivation of opium, coca and marijuana; targeting drug traffickers and their proceeds; promoting national campaigns on drug abuse prevention and treatment; and regulating precursor chemicals used in the production of many illicit drugs.

The 53-member UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), of which the United States has been a member since 1946, is the central policy-making body within the UN system for dealing with drug-related matters. The CND held its 50th session in Vienna on March 12-16, 2007. As a result of extensive outreach to member states in the months leading up to the Commission, the United States succeeded in garnering wide member-state support to reject a World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation to downgrade the international controls on dronabinol, the principal active ingredient in cannabis. The recommendation was returned to the WHO for further review, with a request that it not be re-sent to the Commission until further scientific evidence was available.

Building on a 2006 resolution, sponsored by the United States, the 2007 Commission saw an increased focus on precursor chemical control. The Commission approved a total of four resolutions related to precursors dealing with increased monitoring, law enforcement, and directing the work of the International Narcotics Control Board. The United States co-tabled a resolution with the European Union on precursor chemical control for synthetic drugs. This resolution addressed the growing need to identify and react to non-controlled substances being used as substitutes for controlled chemicals in illicit drug manufacture.

The United States also co-sponsored a resolution related to the 10-year review of progress achieved since the 1998 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem. This resolution established 2008 as a “year of review,” which will allow UNODC to gather relevant information and to hold expert working groups to discuss the way forward.

U.S. financial support to UNODC in 2007 had significant impact on the operations and expansion of UN counter-narcotics programs and policy. UNODC used funds provided by the United States to enhance global programs that work to reduce precursor chemical control, combat money laundering and terrorist financing, provide legal advice on treaty implementation of the UN drug conventions, prevent drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, and augment an international network of treatment and rehabilitation centers. Notably, the United States continued its funding support for the work of the International Narcotics Control Board to advance implementation of a 2006 U.S.-sponsored resolution that sought to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals to the illicit market. U.S. funds also supported numerous regional projects, including strengthening precursor control in East Asia and increasing border control in Central Asia. U.S. funds also supported country-specific programs that

included those in Afghanistan providing for eradication verification activities, in Laos providing for alternative development, in Cambodia supporting efforts to clean-up and dispose of seized chemicals in an environmentally sound manner, in Peru implementing a program to facilitate effective anti-money laundering and asset forfeiture laws, as well as monitoring illicit drug crops, and in Ecuador providing drug prevention in urban communities.

The United States used the back-to-back reconvened sessions of the 50th Commission on Narcotic Drugs and 16th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as an opportunity to spur discussion on the 10-year review of the UNGASS on the World Drug Problem. The United States held extensive meetings on the margins to engage with other member states to ensure that the review was thorough and produced concrete outcomes without re-negotiating the drug conventions.

International Narcotics Control Board

The 13-member International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is an independent quasi-judicial control body that has a mandate to promote governments' compliance with the provisions of international drug control treaties and to assist governments in this effort. Board members from 13 different countries serve in their personal, not national, capacity. The Board meets three times annually to monitor the implementation of drug control treaties and the international movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The INCB presented its annual report to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2007. The 2007 report focused on unregulated drug markets, specifically internet pharmacies and the increasing problem of counterfeit drugs. The INCB report also criticized injection and consumption rooms. The report's conclusions are in line with the United States' global drug-control policies and help strengthen U.S. efforts worldwide. In addition, the 2007 report criticized Bolivia for allowing coca cultivation for purposes outside those specified in drug control treaties and called on Bolivia to live up to its obligations under the 1961 and 1988 Conventions. The United States used the INCB agenda item at the CND to warn against the perils of expanding coca cultivation under the guise of licit consumption.

Human Rights

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO Committee), part of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is the UN body that adjudicates requests by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for accreditation to participate in meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. The member states of the NGO Committee for 2007 were Angola, Burundi, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Egypt,

Guinea, India, Israel, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sudan, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Because the NGO Committee is a highly politicized technical committee, the most frequently attacked and scrutinized NGOs are those working in the areas of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. The U.S. presence and participation on the Committee helps these NGOs to obtain and maintain ECOSOC accreditation status. The U.S. delegation also exercises crucial oversight of the administration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs' NGO Section.

At its July 2007 meeting, the Committee granted consultative status to 89 NGOs, while denying it to others, as described below.

Liberal International is an NGO based in London. Its members consist of liberal and democratic parties, including from Taiwan. Because of China's complaint that Liberal International took part in a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting, the Committee suspended the consultative status of Liberal International for one year. The United States opposed that decision. During the debate, the United States acknowledged that there is one China and encouraged a peaceful resolution on longstanding differences between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. Although the United States does not support Taiwan's full membership in organizations such as the UN which have statehood as a prerequisite, the United States supported its meaningful participation in appropriate technical activities of international organizations. The United States believed that Taiwan's participation in the WHO meeting was not a politically motivated act against China, but was connected to the international community's public health interests.

The NGO Committee did not grant consultative status to the Jewish National Fund. The United States also opposed that decision.

The Committee granted consultative status to the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights, a decision the United States supported.

Democracy Caucus

The UN Democracy Caucus (UNDC) is a network of democratic nations through which the United States can advance the work of the United Nations in areas such as human rights, democracy, women's rights, and economic development. The United States believes that democratic nations must work more closely together in order to help the United Nations live up to its founding principles. The Democracy Caucus is comprised of the approximately 126 countries that participate in the Community of Democracies, whose participants meet the criteria set out during the Community of Democracies Seoul Ministerial in 2002. The Democracy Caucus is not intended to supplant long-standing regional or other groupings, but rather to provide an added mechanism that like-minded democratic nations can use to cooperate on resolutions and other initiatives to promote democratic practices and principles. The United States participates in the Convening

Group of the Community of Democracies, which is comprised of 16 countries and provides leadership for the Caucus.

The Chair of the Community of Democracies serves as the *de facto* Chair of the Democracy Caucus in New York. Mali, host of the 2007 Community of Democracies Ministerial, served as the Caucus chair from 2006-2007; Portugal is chair from 2008-2009. In May 2007, the Community of Democracies Convening Group issued a statement, which the United States supported, encouraging states to support candidates with good human rights records in the Human Rights Council election. The Community of Democracies Ministerial during the UN General Assembly focused on furthering democracy and development in preparation for the Ministerial meeting in Bamako, Mali with the same theme. The U.S. delegation to the Ministerial in Bamako, led by Deputy Secretary of State Negroponte, also highlighted the need to support the UN Democracy Fund and urged that the Community work together to forge common positions at the United Nations.

The U.S. Mission to the UN in New York consults closely with key Community of Democracies members, including India and Portugal, to identify concrete steps to further the Caucus' work. In 2007, the U.S. Mission succeeded in gaining support from democracies across regional groups for several important democracy and human rights resolutions, including one in support of the UN's elections assistance work, another calling attention to and condemning the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as a resolution that called on the Government of Belarus to immediately cease its ongoing and systemic violations of the human rights of its people. The United States also assisted in securing cross-regional support for the resolutions on the human rights records of Iran, Burma, and North Korea.

In 2007, the Community of Democracies continued its institution-building work. A planned secretariat for the Community was officially announced at the 2007 Bamako Ministerial meeting. Working groups were established to focus on tangible activities that could be accomplished before the conference. Among the outcomes of these working groups was the production of a "Diplomat's Handbook for Democracy Development Support," which is being distributed globally and will become a standard training tool for diplomats from several governments, including the U.S.

Holocaust Remembrance

The UN General Assembly observed the second International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust on January 29, 2007. The observance focused on the importance of infusing today's youth with the lessons of the Holocaust so that future generations may work to prevent hatred, bigotry, racism, and prejudice. UN General Assembly President Sheikh Haya Rashed al Khalifa (Bahrain), recalling in her statement the needless deaths of millions of Jews in the Holocaust, noted that "the Holocaust was a historical event, which cannot be denied." During the observance, as part of its "Holocaust and the United Nations" outreach program, the UN Department of Public Information launched a new website

and resource for member states, educators, and NGOs, “Electronic Notes for Speakers,” developed by Yad Vashem, the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute, and the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris.

Israel introduced a resolution establishing the International Day of Commemoration during the 60th UN General Assembly, which adopted it by consensus on November 1, 2005, with 104 member states co-sponsoring. This resolution built on the successful December 2004 request of the United States, the European Union, Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, and the Russian Federation to convene a special session of the General Assembly in January 2005 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.

In December 2006, in direct contravention of the 2005 resolution, the Iranian government sponsored an international conference entitled “Review of the Holocaust: Global Vision,” specifically aimed at denying the existence of the Holocaust as an historical event. Reflecting the widespread condemnation of the international community, the United States pressed for a UN General Assembly resolution reiterating the General Assembly’s rejection of Holocaust denial.

On January 26, 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 61/255 entitled “Holocaust Denial,” which was co-sponsored by the United States and 102 other member states. Resolution 61/255 condemned “without any reservation any denial of the Holocaust” and urged all member states “unreservedly to reject any denial of the Holocaust as an historical event, either in full or in part, or any activities to this end.”

Noting that January 27 had been designated by the United Nations as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, Resolution 61/255 also welcomed the Secretary-General’s establishment of an outreach program on “The Holocaust and the United Nations” and the inclusion by member states in their educational programs of “measures to confront attempts to deny or minimize the importance of the Holocaust.” Finally, Resolution 61/255 recalled that Resolution 60/7 declared that remembrance of the Holocaust “is critical to prevent further acts of genocide” and that, “for this reason, Resolution 60/7 rejects efforts to deny the Holocaust which, by ignoring the historical fact of those terrible events, increases the risk they will be repeated.”

In introducing Resolution 61/255, Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, declared that “The resolution we are introducing builds on the strong foundation of Resolution 60/7 of 2005 in making clear that all people and all states have a vital stake in a world free of genocide.” He went on to say, “Those who would deny the Holocaust—and, sadly, there are some who do—reveal not only ignorance but their moral failure as well.” He concluded by reminding the General Assembly that “The United Nations was founded in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War and of the Holocaust. It is particularly fitting to remember this legacy.”

All subsequent speakers supported the resolution, except Iran, which disassociated itself from the consensus on the resolution, described it as a “hypocritical political exercise,” and said the focus should be on Israel’s conduct today. Ambassador Wolff concluded his response to Iran with the following words: “To deny the events of the Holocaust is tantamount to the approval of genocide in all its forms. Today, we stand together, saying to the world that we will not allow that to happen.”

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal UN official responsible for advancing human rights and reports directly to the Secretary-General. Under the High Commissioner’s leadership, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) works to ensure the practical implementation of human rights obligations and carries out the tasks requested by UN human rights bodies. The United States, through the U.S. Permanent Mission to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva, has worked with the High Commissioner to build a strong cooperative relationship.

The Office of the High Commissioner has gradually expanded its presence in the field in recent years. In 2007, the High Commissioner’s Office maintained eight regional offices and 11 country offices. It also supported the human rights components of United Nations peacekeeping operations worldwide and deployed human rights officers to support the UN Country Teams in Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and the South Caucasus. The work of the High Commissioner’s Office in 2007 included provision of technical assistance and advisory services activities, such as monitoring human rights situations, assisting human rights capacity building of governments in host countries, building networks with local and regional civil society groups, and promoting ratification and implementation of key human rights treaties. The Office of the High Commissioner is seeking to open some additional regional offices in 2008.

In addition to carrying out its operational work in the field, the Office of the High Commissioner provides staff for the secretariat of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), the human rights treaty implementation bodies, the advisory committee, and the UN’s human rights special procedures, including special rapporteurs and independent experts. It does not control and does not have great influence over either the HRC or the special procedures. Louise Arbour, the High Commissioner in 2007, strongly defended her independence in the face of efforts by some, most notably China and the Non-Aligned Movement, to have the HRC exercise greater control over the work of the High Commissioner’s Office.

Status of Women

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946 as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),

seeks to improve the situation of women in the areas of political participation, economic opportunity, social development, health, and education. Following the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing Women's Conference), the General Assembly mandated that the CSW institute a follow-up process to the Conference by regularly reviewing the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action and mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities. The United States regards the CSW favorably and is active in the Commission's work. We have successfully used the annual CSW meetings to highlight U.S. Government activities to improve conditions for women throughout the world, including through U.S.-introduced resolutions and U.S.-sponsored panel discussions and other types of side events.

The CSW convened its 2006 session in New York from February 26 – March 9, 2007. At the conclusion of the two-week session, member states adopted the following resolutions by consensus: "Women, the Girl Child, and HIV/AIDS" (Southern African Development Community resolution), "Ending Female Genital Mutilation" (Africa Group resolution), and "Forced Marriage of the Girl Child" (U.S. resolution). On each of the above, the United States joined consensus with an Explanation of Position (EOP) on reaffirmation of the outcomes of the Beijing women's conference and its follow up sessions, as well as health-related wording. On the forced marriage resolution, the European Union submitted an amendment from the floor "reaffirming" the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Because the United States could not accept that wording in UN documents without an EOP, it withdrew co-sponsorship of the resolution, but decided not to withdraw the resolution completely in order to have the first UN resolution raising awareness on this topic adopted as part of the UN record. El Salvador, Angola, Benin, Panama, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Togo co-sponsored the resolution, which was adopted by consensus.

A U.S.-introduced resolution on "Prenatal Sex Selection and Female Infanticide" was withdrawn; language on these issues was incorporated into the agreed conclusions on "Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against the Girl Child."

The United States called for a vote on and voted against the resolution on "Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women." Each year the United States opposes this unbalanced and one-sided resolution that criticizes Israel while failing to note that the Palestinian side and Arab states also have responsibilities to meet in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The resolution addresses a number of issues, including territory and refugees, which must be resolved by negotiations between the parties.

Member states adopted by consensus agreed conclusions on "Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against the Girl Child," which was the main theme of the CSW 2007 session. The United States joined consensus with an EOP on references to "sexual and reproductive health,"

“reaffirming” the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and “foreign occupation.”

The United States held a side event on “State Sanctioned Mass Rape in Burma and Sudan,” which U.S. Representative to the CSW Ambassador Patricia Brister moderated.

UN Democracy Fund

The UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF), which grew out of an idea presented by President Bush at the United Nations in 2004 and was established in 2005, had a successful third year. The United States’ goals of recruiting a well-qualified Executive Director, assuring final disbursement of all first-round grants, announcing a second call for proposals to include increased emphasis in reaching applicants from civil society, and reinforcing UNDEF’s independence from host governments were achieved. In 2007, UNDEF disbursed approximately \$36 million to over 120 projects in over 75 countries, with a majority going to pro-democracy civil society organizations. UNDEF is completely voluntarily funded. By the end of 2007, countries as diverse as Ecuador, Cyprus, Georgia, France, India, Lithuania, Mongolia, Bulgaria and Australia had pledged or contributed a total of over \$80 million. During its Ministerial Meeting in Mali, the Community of Democracies once again expressed support for UNDEF and urged all members to contribute to the fund.

A major focus of the United States in 2007 was to ensure the appointment of a strong Executive Director. In October, the Secretary-General appointed as UNDEF’s Executive Director a former Australian diplomat, Roland Rich, who had exceptional credentials, including a tour as a fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy. Rich brought on board a new staff and focused immediately on executing a second call for proposals. The Fund’s second call for proposals, which closed on December 31, resulted in over 1,800 applications primarily from civil society.

As an outcome of UN reform, the Democracy Fund represents the possibility for new thinking on the use of technical assistance to build democratic institutions. While the political climate in the UN human rights institutions worsens, the Democracy Fund stands out as a symbol of what the UN can do when properly mobilized. The United States has been integral in the formation of this innovative institution and, with our continued participation, we can help sustain its achievements over the long term.

UN Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council held four regular sessions (March 12-30, June 11-18, September 10-28, and December 10-14) and one special session on Burma (on October 2) during 2007. It also met informally throughout the year. Despite the Council’s successful special session on Burma, its performance in 2007 was extremely disappointing. The Council pushed through, despite a lack of consensus, a resolution establishing its flawed institutional procedures and agenda; continued its unbalanced treatment

of Israel, including by establishing a permanent agenda item on the situation in Palestine; eliminated the Cuba and Belarus human rights special rapporteurs; and took only weak measures on Sudan.

Between January and June, Council President de Alba (Mexico) held several *ad hoc* meetings to further negotiations on the Council's new agenda and institutional procedures, which had to be established by the end of the Council's first year (June 18, 2007). He created four working groups to address each major institutional issue: Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights Advisory Committee (which would act as an advisory body for the Council), the Council's individual complaint procedure, and the mandates of over 40 UN human rights special procedures.

The U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva participated actively in institution-building negotiations and worked very closely with members of the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), among others, to develop joint positions on key issues, including on the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the retention of all country-specific UN special rapporteurs or special representatives. Despite significant efforts to forge a consensus on each institutional question, no agreement was reached by all Council members. In the last hours of the Human Rights Council session on June 18 (the final day of the Council's first year), despite a lack of consensus, the Council President pushed through a final institution-building package that eliminated the Cuba and Belarus mandates and established a permanent agenda item on Israel.

The Council's performance on substantive issues in 2007 was, with few exceptions, similarly discouraging. The United States supported the Council's special session on Burma and helped to ensure that the technical cooperation mandates for Liberia, Haiti, and Burundi were renewed in the Council's September session (though only after intense lobbying and, in the case of Liberia, after a visit to Geneva by a senior Liberian official). The Council passed only weak resolutions on Sudan and took no action on North Korea, Iran, Cuba, or Belarus. Violence in Zimbabwe in March 2007 resulted in a statement by some Council members and observers (including the United States) but no resolution. During the December session, the Council adopted a resolution on religious intolerance that called on all states to criminalize "incitement to hatred," which is an amorphous and problematic concept that has been used by some UN member states to justify restrictions on freedom of religion and expression. The Council also passed routine resolutions in support of the Durban review preparatory process and held the first preparatory meetings for the Durban review conference, now scheduled for April 2009 in Geneva.

UNGA Third Committee

The United States succeeded in accomplishing several key objectives in the Third Committee in 2007. With active lobbying and global demarches by the United States and its allies, three procedural no-action motions were

defeated and four significant country-specific resolutions, focusing attention on human rights violations in Belarus, Burma, Iran, and North Korea, were adopted. After several weeks of difficult negotiations, the United States also succeeded in passing by consensus a resolution on the elimination of rape and other forms of sexual violence, including in conflict and related situations. These successes were tempered by a disappointing United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) vote adopting a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty, which the United States voted against (99-52(U.S.))-33).

A top priority of the United States, the resolution on the human rights situation in Iran, passed in a vote of 72(U.S.))-50-55 after only narrowly defeating a motion for no-action. North Korea and Burma resolutions passed by 97(U.S.))-23-60 and 88(U.S.))-24-66, respectively. The U.S.-sponsored resolution on Belarus was adopted (68(U.S.))-32-76), again after defeating a no-action motion.

The annual resolution on Palestinian self-determination passed by a vote of 172-5(U.S.))-5, a slightly larger majority than last year's resolution, which had 162 votes in favor. The resolutions on the Right to Development and the Rights of the Child, neither of which the United States supported, passed again by a large majority. The United States and the European Union both opposed a resolution calling on the Secretary-General to provide support to the Durban follow-up conference, but the resolution passed by a wide majority (119-45(U.S.))-6). The United States was able to co-sponsor Denmark's resolution against torture, which passed by consensus, and was able to join consensus on a resolution on the protection of migrants after several weeks of difficult negotiations.

The United States worked extensively on negotiating consensus resolutions regarding international cooperation against the scourges of drugs and crime. Ultimately, the United States co-sponsored both the Mexican-sponsored resolution strengthening international drug control and the Italian-sponsored resolution strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice program. The United States joined consensus on Res. 61/144 "Trafficking in Women and Girls," Res. 61/143, "Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women," and Res. 61/106, "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities." A resolution on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance was adopted by consensus – preserving important language on anti-Semitism over calls from some other countries to eliminate any references to specific religions.

Humanitarian Affairs

Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Activities

In 2007, the United States and the United Nations cooperated extensively on disaster response and humanitarian relief activities. The United States provided leadership as a member of UN agency governing bodies and support groups, including the Donor Support Group for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The United States also

continued to be actively engaged in initiatives to reform the UN humanitarian system, including through its participation in the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and in providing funding and guidance to the UN cluster initiative as well as in strengthening the Humanitarian Coordinator system.

John Holmes (United Kingdom) succeeded Jan Egeland as Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in January 2007. OCHA also underwent internal restructuring (“realignment”) in 2007, including by consolidating the country desk structure of the Coordination and Response Division (CRD), originally split between New York and Geneva, in a single location (New York). With the consolidation, the CRD assumed full responsibility for substantive support of humanitarian coordination for OCHA’s field and regional offices, as well as for overall management of the response to both natural disasters and complex emergencies.

In 2007, the United States continued to provide substantial support to UN humanitarian operations throughout the world in response to natural disasters, as well as to ongoing relief efforts in areas of protracted crisis such as Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Horn of Africa.

OCHA estimated that 134 million people suffered from the effects of hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, flooding, and other natural disasters in 2007. During this time period, a total of 14 UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) missions were deployed, 12 of which focused on emergency response, and two on disaster preparedness. The United States Government has several personnel who have undergone UNDAC training and are on the UNDAC roster for participation in missions.

As the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and neighboring Chad continued in 2007, the United States remained the largest bilateral donor of assistance as well as the largest single donor multilaterally. A significant portion of U.S. assistance was channeled through UN operational agencies such as the World Food Program (WFP), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the UN Department of Safety and Security. In fiscal year (FY) 2007, the United States contributed more than \$308 million to the WFP for food commodities and humanitarian air operations in Darfur and eastern Chad and more than \$16 million to UNICEF programs in Darfur and eastern Chad for health, emergency relief commodities, protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene. The United States also gave more than \$25 million to UNHCR, including \$4.9 million for Darfur and \$20.5 million for Chad in FY2007. Overall, the United States is the world’s largest food aid donor, providing half of all food aid internationally and 40 percent of total resources contributed to the WFP.

The United States actively engaged the United Nations and its member states on humanitarian- and disaster-related resolutions in the UN General Assembly and its Economic and Social Council. The United States

supported resolutions on improving the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, strengthening UN coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance, improving the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of UN personnel, and several country-specific resolutions pertaining to humanitarian situations.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Since its inauguration January 1, 1951, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), based in Geneva, Switzerland, has led and coordinated international efforts to protect and provide durable solutions for the world's refugees. It also plays a key role in providing for refugees' basic needs, such as food, shelter, health care, and education. UNHCR has over 6,200 staff operating in 116 countries. Antonio Guterres (Portugal) has served as High Commissioner since June 15, 2005. In 2007, issues that High Commissioner Guterres focused on include managing large refugee repatriation efforts, including to Afghanistan, Southern Sudan, and Burundi; UNHCR structural and management reform (field and headquarters); United Nations reform, including where UNHCR agreed to take the lead for protection, camp coordination and camp management, and emergency shelter for internally displaced persons (IDPs); and strengthening partnerships with international and non-governmental organizations. The United States continued to support these priorities, at the same time stressing to UNHCR that it should not over-extend itself and should continue to prioritize its mandate for refugee protection.

In 2007, the global refugee population protected and/or assisted by UNHCR increased to an estimated 11.4 million (the number does not include the 4.6 million Palestinian refugees under the mandate of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East). Due to changes in methodology the number is not fully comparable with figures from earlier years (for example, UNHCR statistics no longer count resettled refugees), but, as a point of reference, the refugee total for 2006 was 9.9 million. UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance under both the Cluster Approach and other arrangements as either the lead agency or a partner for IDPs, estimated to number 13.7 million in 2007, up one million from 2006. Total numbers of IDPs for both conflict-generated and natural disaster crises are at 51 million. The number of stateless persons was cut almost in half from 5.8 million in 2006 to nearly 3 million in 2007 – in large part due to breakthroughs in Nepal and Bangladesh. The change in numbers of stateless persons led to a decrease in the overall population of persons of concern to UNHCR from 32.9 million to 31.7 million.

Approximately one-third of refugees are from UNHCR's Asia Pacific region, which includes Afghanistan. Afghanistan and Iraq account for nearly half of all refugees under UNHCR's responsibility worldwide, with almost 3.1 million Afghan and 2.3 million Iraqi refugees. An estimated 731,000 refugees were repatriated voluntarily in 2007, almost the same number as in 2006. Voluntary repatriation of refugees to southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic

of Congo (D.R.C.), Liberia, and Burundi reduced the overall number of refugees in Africa by six percent, but armed conflict and human rights violations also led to greater displacement from the Central African Republic, Chad, the D.R.C., Somalia, and Sudan. Pakistan continued to be the asylum country with the largest number of refugees, with Syria second.

Resettlement traditionally is a solution for a small percentage of all refugees: from 1998-2007, 821,000 refugees were resettled to a third country, less than one percent of all refugees. In 2007, the number of those resettled with UNHCR assistance was 49,600 worldwide; most were from Burma, Burundi, Somalia, Iraq, the D.R.C., and Afghanistan. The United States admits more refugees than the other 25 resettlement countries combined. Other major resettlement destinations include Canada, Australia, and Sweden. The United States admitted 48,281 refugees in fiscal year (FY) 2007. Most, but not all, were through UNHCR referrals.

The UNHCR Executive Committee (EXCOM), which is responsible for approving UNHCR's budget and advising UNHCR on issues of concern, is comprised of 76 member states, including the United States. In October 2007, the 58th Session of EXCOM met to discuss protection programs and policy, management and oversight, finance, and human resource issues. High Commissioner Guterres spoke about the increasing number of refugees and the growing challenge posed by mixed migration flows, where economic migrants cross borders along with people in need of protection, including refugees and asylum seekers and victims of trafficking. He noted that for the first time in a decade, UNHCR reversed the trend of rising global staff costs, with more money spent on operations than staff during the first eight months of 2007.

To enhance transparency and elicit generous contributions, UNHCR restructured its budget from an annual to a biannual one with four core components: refugee assistance, re-integration assistance, IDPs, and statelessness. The revised structure is intended to mesh with UNHCR's planning categories which are based on populations of concern. The refugee and stateless budgets would be program budgets, while the IDP and reintegration budgets would be project-based. While the United States approved the budget redesign, it expressed concern that the project approach taken in the IDP and reintegration budgets could lead to greater earmarking, reduce flexibility, and impair efforts of burden-sharing. The proposed redesigned budget structure was not adopted at the 2007 EXCOM due to ongoing concerns from some member states; UNHCR is actively consulting member states with the aim of presenting a viable new budget structure at the 2008 EXCOM meetings. In July 2007, UNHCR also introduced a Revised Framework for Resource Allocation and Management designed to improve needs/priorities-based resource allocation, management, and accountability.

In FY 2007, the United States contributed \$363,255,625 to UNHCR to help refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people and other populations of concern to UNHCR. In addition, United States funding supported UNHCR's ongoing reform process aimed at improving its capacity

to address new and ongoing crises. Of the total U.S. contribution, \$232,487,452 went toward the annual budget, representing 23.8 percent of the total appeal. In addition, the United States contributed over \$105 million towards UNHCR's Supplementary Budgets in the D.R.C., Sudan, Darfur, Western Sahara, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Mauritania, Iraq, and Sri Lanka; and over \$8 million towards UNHCR's IDP Supplementary Budgets. The remaining \$14 million in funding supported additional key activities that the United States asked UNHCR to undertake, including resettlement and referral activities; strengthening UNHCR's protection capacity; protecting women and children; aiding stateless Rohingyas for temporary assistance and schools; expanding protection and assistance in China and Mongolia; expanding the Health Information System (HIS); developing refugee law courses; addressing gender-based violence in Colombia, Costa Rica and Ecuador; reducing statelessness in Kosovo and Georgia; expanding HIV/AIDs programs; and supporting American Junior Professional Officers with UNHCR. Overall, donor contributions met 91 percent of UNHCR's Annual Budget of \$1.033 billion for 2007, with \$34.4 million coming from the UN General Budget (representing another three percent).

In addition to addressing budget issues during EXCOM in 2007, the United States delegation worked to advance a number of other interests. These included strengthening efforts by the international community to address protection and the pursuit of durable solutions for refugees; maximizing UNHCR's operational performance; increasing coordination and strengthening partnerships among UNHCR, its donors, refugee hosting countries, and UNHCR's implementing and operational partners; and improving emergency preparedness and response capacity. The United States also focused on refugee and humanitarian worker security issues, the protection of refugee women and children, improving UNHCR's approach to durable solutions, management reform, emergency response and camp management, and clarifying UNHCR's role with IDPs.

In addition to the annual Executive Committee meeting, UNHCR holds three Standing Committee meetings each year. At all meetings and in bilateral negotiations with relevant governments, the United States reiterated the need for greater information-sharing and transparency in areas of human resources, management, and operations. The United States stressed the need to support the High Commissioner's management reforms and called for increased donor support for the work of UNHCR.

Domestic and overseas personnel of the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) worked in concert with UNHCR field and headquarters staff to ensure UNHCR's effective and comprehensive execution of its mandate. The importance the United States places on refugee protection is reflected in its funding of UNHCR through its targeted support for the special needs of refugee women and refugee children, a Surge Protection project, and additional protection staffing.

Since 2001, the relationship between State/PRM and UNHCR has been governed by a Framework for Cooperation which sets forth priorities and shared goals. In 2007, Framework priorities included strengthening performance indicators under the Results-Based Management framework and decentralization and regionalization reforms intended to support operations and beneficiaries in the field and bring decision-making and support as close as possible to delivery points. The United States also sought to ensure that regionalization and decentralization also incorporate appropriate budgetary authority and clear lines of accountability. Other Framework priorities relate to staffing policies such as: gender balance, workforce strengthening, and improving the representation of Americans in UNHCR's workforce.

To ensure accountability and effectiveness in the field, State/PRM provides annual monitoring and evaluation (M&E) training covering both international organizations and NGOs for incoming officers in Washington and refugee coordinators posted overseas. PRM also provides expanded M&E sessions for Washington staff in order to enhance and strengthen M&E concepts throughout the year. In addition, refugee coordinators are requested to participate and report on UNHCR's Country Operations Plans (COPs) for the coming year. UNHCR's COP process provides an ideal opportunity for the United States Government to gain valuable insight into UNHCR's planning process as well as the overall direction of its programs. It also provides an opportunity to influence policy and resource decisions in the field and to monitor and evaluate UNHCR's progress toward its goals and objectives, as well as those agreed to in the PRM-UNHCR Framework for Cooperation.

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Since 1950, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has provided education, health, and social services to Palestinian refugees and their descendants who reside in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. In 2007, these refugees numbered over 4.5 million. UNRWA, led by Commissioner-General Karen AbuZayd (United States), had a split headquarters between Gaza and Jordan and maintained five field offices located in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. It had a staff of more than 29,000, most of whom are Palestinian refugees.

In 2007, UNRWA dedicated approximately 55 percent of its regular budget to education, including schools and teachers. UNRWA allocated 19 percent of its 2007 regular budget to health services and another nine percent to relief and social services. UNRWA allocated nearly 30 percent of its regular budget to Gaza and 18 percent to the West Bank.

In 2007, the United States continued to fund UNRWA's corps of independent inspectors, known as Operation Support Officers (OSO), through its contribution to UNRWA's Emergency Appeal for West Bank and Gaza.

OSO systematically monitors UNRWA's operations and help ensure its facilities are not being used for political purposes or militant activity.

Also in 2007, UNRWA introduced e-learning to its highly regarded tolerance education program, including the creation of a human rights website and production of interactive CDs containing human rights material. In 2007, all of UNRWA's 684 schools, nine vocational training centers, and three educational sciences faculties participated in the tolerance education, conflict resolution, and democracy training programs.

UNRWA's Emergency Appeal for Gaza/West Bank went from \$171 million in 2006 to \$246.16 million in 2007 in light of the increased needs for food, temporary employment, and relief. Through the Emergency Appeal, UNRWA provided food assistance to 260,000 refugee families in West Bank and Gaza (approximately 1.4 million individuals) and created over 6.4 million workdays for 98,000 unemployed refugees.

In 2007, UNRWA's three-year Organizational Development Plan (ODP) continued as an initiative to implement reforms in service delivery and program management, including strategic planning, resource management, and accountability. A specific achievement of the ODP is UNRWA's ongoing development of a medium-term strategy for 2010-2015, which focuses on needs-based planning, while strategically prioritizing UNRWA policy and programming in the face of chronic funding shortfalls.

The UN Board of Auditors, Board of Examiners, and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) scrutinize UNRWA's operations and fiscal practices to ensure accountability. In 2007, UNRWA included for the first time external members to its OIOS. In 2006, the UN Board of Auditors (BOA) released the results of its UNRWA audit led by the Auditor-General of the Republic of South Africa for the biennium ending 2004-2005. UNRWA is fully in line with other UN agencies in implementing BOA recommendations.

In Fiscal Year 2007, the United States contributed \$154.15 million of UNRWA's total general and emergency budgets of approximately \$819.17 million. This contribution included \$90.65 million to UNRWA's General Fund to provide health care, education, and relief and social services to Palestinian refugees. It also included \$50 million for food, short-term employment, and emergency health needs in response to UNRWA's emergency appeal for the West Bank and Gaza, and \$13.5 million for food and shelter in response to UNRWA's Flash Appeal and Emergency Appeal in Lebanon, following the 2007 destruction of Nahr al-Bared Camp due to fighting between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the terrorist group Fatah al-Islam.

World Food Program

The World Food Program (WFP) is the UN's front-line agency in the fight against global hunger. Despite rising food and fuel costs that added on average 50 percent to the cost of feeding the world's hungry in 2007, WFP delivered 3.3 million metric tons of food to 86.1 million beneficiaries, of

whom 62 percent were children. WFP's governing body, the Executive Board, has 36 members, including the United States. Overall, the United States was the world's largest food aid donor, providing half of all food aid internationally and approximately \$1 billion to the WFP, which represents roughly 40 percent of total resources contributed to the WFP.

WFP's Strategic Plan for 2004–2007 contained the following five strategic priorities: to save lives in crisis situations; to protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks; to support improved nutrition and health for children, mothers, and other vulnerable people; to support access to education and reduce gender disparity in access to education and skills training; and to help governments establish and manage national food-assistance programs. The WFP Executive Board will approve in 2008 a new strategic plan for the period 2008–2011.

WFP is an important partner to the United States in achieving our humanitarian and development goals. In 2007, WFP carried out programs in 80 countries, of which the United States was a partner in 47. The bulk of U.S. assistance, over \$1 billion in 2007 from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the State Department, went to emergency and protracted relief and recovery food and logistics operations. Sudan was the largest single-country operation in 2007, receiving 20 percent of overall WFP resources and targeting approximately six million beneficiaries, including 2.5 million people in Darfur. Kenya and Ethiopia were the second- and third-largest beneficiaries, respectively. In addition, WFP launched 44 single country and regional emergency operations benefiting 15.3 million victims of natural disasters and conflict situations. WFP also implemented 33 special operations and 69 protracted relief and recovery operations that reached 47 million beneficiaries.

In 2007, WFP had school feeding operations in 71 countries and provided school meals and/or take-home rations to 19.3 million children. Working with national governments, local authorities, and other aid groups, WFP uses food to attract children to school in areas where enrollment ratios are lowest and where feeding schoolchildren will have the greatest impact. Since 2001, the United States has been the largest single donor to WFP school feeding activities. U.S. contributions to WFP's global school feeding programs come from the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This program provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for feeding schoolchildren and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. In 2007, WFP was the implementing partner for McGovern-Dole programs in Guinea, Cambodia, Malawi, Kenya, and Pakistan.

Throughout 2007, WFP continued to focus on ways to become more effective, efficient, and responsive through the use of the Immediate Response Account and Operational Reserve Account for emergencies. WFP also

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concentrated on improving fundraising and broadening its donor base. Donations from the private sector have increased since 2003, reaching \$55 million in cash, commodities, and services from nearly 100 organizations.

In 2007, WFP significantly increased its work with other UN organizations. The UN Children's Fund remained WFP's largest UN partner, primarily in projects to overcome child hunger, reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, and improve education. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization was WFP's second largest partner, primarily collaborating on food security assessments. WFP also developed close working relations with the World Health Organization (on health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS) and with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (to ensure the distribution of food rations for 1.9 million refugees and 800,000 returnees in 30 countries). Partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also increased, as 3,264 NGOs handled half of all WFP food in 2006.

WFP operates exclusively from voluntary contributions of commodities and cash donated by governments and other donors. WFP's overhead is one of the lowest among aid agencies (seven percent), which means that 93 cents of every dollar goes to feed the hungry. In 2007, WFP had 9,139 employees (down from 10,587 in 2006) and had approximately \$2.9 billion in direct expenditures.

Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), established in 1945, is a UN specialized agency that provides global data, technical expertise, and a venue for policy coordination and setting of international standards in agriculture and nutrition, fisheries, forestry, and other issues related to food and agriculture. FAO is the UN system's largest technical agency, with headquarters in Rome. It employs more than 3,600 staff members, about 1,600 professional and 2,000 general service staff, and maintains five regional offices, nine sub-regional offices, five liaison offices, and 74 country offices.

Dr. Jacques Diouf (Senegal) has been Director-General of FAO since 1994, being re-elected to a third term in January 2006. FAO's highest policy-making body, the biennial Conference, comprises all 189 FAO member nations plus one member organization, the European Community. The Conference determines FAO policy and approves FAO's regular program of work and its budget. Each biennial Conference elects a 49-member Council that meets at least three times between regular Conference sessions to make recommendations to the Conference on budget and policy issues. The North America region, which comprises the United States and Canada, is allocated two seats on the Council and one seat each on FAO's Program, Finance, and Constitutional and Legal Matters Committees. In 2007, the United States held the North America seat on the Finance Committee and the Constitutional and Legal Matters Committee; Canada held the North America seat on the Program Committee. The United States also participates actively in other major governing bodies and technical committees.

At the November 2007 FAO Conference, member states passed a 2008-2009 budget of \$939 million, a 21 percent increase over the previous biennial budget in U.S. dollar terms. The United States, Canada, Switzerland, and Japan voted against the budget, and Australia and Korea abstained. The four "no" votes and the two abstentions account for 42 percent of FAO's donor base.

Despite the large budget increase, the United States and other major donors managed to secure the adoption of a reform package that included acceptance of the recommendations of an independent external evaluation (IEE) that began in 2006. Among other issues, the IEE stressed increasing the efficient use of scarce resources, improving program effectiveness, dropping programs that were not in the core mandate of FAO, and supporting FAO's standards-setting and other normative work. A November 2008 special session of the FAO Conference will review progress on reform. Achieving fundamental and lasting reforms at the FAO remains a key policy goal of the United States in its dealings with the organization.

Of particular importance to the United States are the internationally recognized standards for food safety and plant health developed by the joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The work of these bodies facilitates trade and protects consumers in both developed and developing countries. In 2007, the United States continued to work with other countries in the FAO policy-making bodies to ensure greater financial support from the overall FAO budget for Codex and IPPC.

The United States values FAO's expertise in agricultural commodity and trade issues and continued to press in 2007 for more active roles by the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal. The United States continued to look to FAO as the international organization with the membership, the mandate, and the expertise to tackle global sustainable forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture problems.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture entered into force in June 2004. The United States signed the treaty in 2002, but has not yet ratified it. The treaty establishes a transparent system to facilitate access to plant genetic resources and to share the benefits.

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognized the importance of the FAO Conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies for Developing Countries planned for 2008 and made an initial contribution of \$80,000 towards conference preparations. The conference will provide an important stock-taking exercise, looking at the past and current experiences of applying biotechnologies in developing countries, to determine where they worked or are working, where they don't, and what factors made the difference. The U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, working with the U.S. Embassies to Italy and to the Holy See, have proposed a tri-mission joint sponsorship of a meeting of a Steering Committee of Experts and a half-day seminar to prepare issues for the agenda at the 2008 conference.

The U.S. National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza called for participation in multilateral mechanisms for rapid response to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided more than \$63 million to date, including \$38 million in 2007, to FAO for avian influenza control in some 20 countries, and for regional and global initiatives. From 2006-2008, USDA and USAID accordingly contributed a combined total of \$9.4 million to FAO to support the establishment and operation of such a multilateral mechanism: the Crisis Management Center – Animal Health. In addition, FAO attracted approximately \$3.5 million in non-U.S. donor funding for the Center, which is now established with protocols in place for coordination with the *Organisation Mondiale de la Sante Animale* (World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE) and WHO on responses to zoonotic disease outbreaks such as HPAI. To date, the Center has conducted 23 assessment or response missions in affected countries; 12 of these missions focused on HPAI and

several of the missions involved USDA-loaned experts. In 2007, FAO had three USDA-loaned specialists assigned to the Center's core staff in Rome.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957, serves critical U.S. interests in the promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear energy, nuclear nonproliferation, safety, counterterrorism, and national security. It conducts a broad array of technical cooperation programs to assist in the application of nuclear technologies to agriculture, medicine, and industry. It provides important guidance to countries seeking to develop the infrastructure for the responsible development of nuclear power. Its activities in implementing international nuclear safeguards, promoting physical protection of nuclear and radiological material, and promoting nuclear safety are critical in both supporting the development of these peaceful applications and in ensuring against the potentially detrimental effects of such development. In 2007, IAEA membership rose to 144 countries. The 35-member Board of Governors, where the United States holds a *de facto* permanent seat, is responsible for directing and overseeing the Agency's policies and program implementation. The Board holds regular meetings in Vienna five times a year: March, June, twice in September, and November, with additional meetings as needed. The General Conference in September is open to all IAEA member states and conducts broad oversight of the IAEA's work by approving the recommendations and decisions of the Board. The fourth Director General of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei (Egypt), assumed office on December 1, 1997, and was appointed to a third term in September 2005. ElBaradei's term will expire December 2009.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Since North Korea (also known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or D.P.R.K.) expelled IAEA inspectors in December 2002, and announced its withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in January 2003, the United States has sought a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the situation through Six-Party Talks with China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Russia. In September 2005, the Six Parties unanimously adopted a Joint Statement in which North Korea committed to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing programs and to return, at an early date, to the NPT and to IAEA safeguards. The other parties agreed to economic cooperation, energy assistance, and steps toward normalization of relations, provided that matters of bilateral concern were addressed, including human rights and North Korea's missile programs. Under the February 13, 2007 Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement, North Korea committed in the first phase to "shut down and seal for the purpose of eventual abandonment the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility, and invite back IAEA personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verification as agreed between the IAEA and the D.P.R.K." North Korea also committed to the

provision of a “complete declaration of all nuclear programs and disablement of all existing nuclear facilities” during the subsequent phase.

IAEA Director General ElBaradei visited Pyongyang March 13-14, 2007, at the D.P.R.K.’s invitation for preliminary discussions on the IAEA’s prospective return to the country. Following the resolution of the Banco Delta Asia issue in June, a team of IAEA personnel visited the D.P.R.K. from June 26-29, 2007. During the visit, the D.P.R.K. and IAEA reached an understanding on an *ad hoc* arrangement to begin monitoring and verification at five nuclear facilities that would be shut down and sealed pursuant to the Initial Actions agreement: the 5-MW(e) Experimental Nuclear Power Plant, the Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Plant, the Radiochemical Laboratory (reprocessing plant), and the unfinished 50-MW(e) Nuclear Power Plant, all at Yongbyon, as well as the unfinished 200-MW(e) Nuclear Power Plant at Taechon. The two unfinished reactors required no shut-down.

Under the arrangement, the IAEA was to be given access, for the purpose of monitoring and verification activities, to all the facilities and equipment that have been shut down and sealed in the D.P.R.K. In addition, the IAEA was to be permitted to install and service, as necessary, appropriate containment and surveillance devices to monitor and verify the status of the shut down and sealed facilities and equipment. The D.P.R.K. was to inform the IAEA in advance of any changes to design or status of facilities and equipment, as well as the removal of any equipment, so that consultations could take place on the impact such changes might have on the IAEA’s monitoring and verification work.

At its July 9, 2007, meeting, the Board of Governors authorized the IAEA, subject to the availability of funds, to implement the *ad hoc* arrangement. On July 14, 2007, an IAEA team arrived at Yongbyon to implement the arrangement. On July 17, 2007, following initial verification, the IAEA stated that the five installations specified in the arrangement had been shut down. Since July 17, 2007, the IAEA – in cooperation with the D.P.R.K. – has continued to monitor and verify the shutdown status of the five facilities and has implemented appropriate monitoring and verification measures at each of the five facilities. The IAEA also applied seals at each of the five facilities. IAEA officials informally expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation provided by the D.P.R.K. in enabling the IAEA to properly monitor and verify the shutdown and sealing of the five facilities.

The October 3, 2007, Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement issued by the Six Parties provided that the disablement of the 5 megawatt Experimental Reactor at Yongbyon, the Reprocessing Plant at Yongbyon, and the Nuclear Fuel Rod Fabrication Facility at Yongbyon would be completed by December 31, 2007. At the request of the other parties, the United States led the disablement activities at these three core facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex and provided the initial funding for those activities. Roughly half a dozen U.S. experts have been present continuously at Yongbyon since November 4, 2007 to monitor the completion

of the 11 agreed-upon disablement measures. The disablement plan was shared with all Six Parties and IAEA leadership, but it was not distributed more broadly, though all of the agreed disablement activities, including photos, have been described in American and international press accounts. Due to health, safety, and verification concerns, the Parties agreed that the fuel discharge (consisting of approximately 8,000 rods in the reactor core) would need to continue even after these other tasks were completed. The October 3 Second-Phase Actions agreement provided that the United States would begin the process of removing the designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism and advance the process of terminating the application to North Korea of the Trading with the Enemy Act “in parallel with the D.P.R.K.’s actions based on consensus reached at the meetings of the Working Group on Normalization of D.P.R.K.-U.S. Relations.”

While disablement activities continued to proceed, as of December 31, 2007, North Korea had not yet provided a complete and correct declaration of its nuclear program. The United States has been working with the other parties to press North Korea to submit its declaration to the Chinese chair as soon as possible. The declaration must be subject to a rigorous verification regime.

The United States continues to emphasize U.S. support for an appropriate role for the IAEA in all stages of implementation of North Korean denuclearization and the country’s early return to the NPT and IAEA safeguards as contemplated in the September 19, 2005, Joint Statement, including verification of the D.P.R.K.’s declaration.

Iran

Throughout 2007, the United States and its allies were actively engaged in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to pressure Iran to comply with its United Nations Security Council, Non-Proliferation Treaty, and IAEA safeguards obligations.

During the March 5-9, 2007 meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, the Board considered two reports provided by Director General ElBaradei. The first reflected his recommendations as to how to best implement the provisions suspending IAEA technical cooperation and limiting overall IAEA technical assistance per the provisions of Resolution 1737. The second contained his assessment of Iran’s compliance with Resolution 1737 (adopted in December 2006) and its provisions mandating full cooperation with the IAEA and suspension of all uranium enrichment-related, reprocessing, and heavy water-related activities. ElBaradei underscored the existence of several outstanding issues regarding the IAEA’s understanding of Iran’s nuclear program and Iran’s failure to comply with its suspension requirement. The Board concurred with Director General ElBaradei’s recommendations in the first report and took note of the second.

On 23 May 2007, ElBaradei released a report to the IAEA Board of Governors and the Security Council (as requested in Resolution 1747, adopted

March 2007) detailing Iran's failure to comply once again with its Security Council-imposed suspension requirement or to provide full cooperation to the IAEA. The Director General also noted Iran's decision, following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1747 on March 24, 2007, to suspend the implementation of Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangement to its Safeguards Agreement, which required the early provision of design information for new nuclear facilities or the decision to modify existing ones. Finally, the Director General noted Iran's refusal to accept Design Information Verification inspections at the Arak Heavy Water Research Reactor (HWRR), pursuant to that decision. The IAEA Board met the week of June 11, 2007 to discuss the implementation of safeguards in Iran, and many Board members expressed serious concern with Iran's noncompliance with Resolutions 1737 and 1747 and decision to scale back its cooperation with the IAEA.

On June 22, 2007, the IAEA and Iran announced their intention to develop a "Plan of Action" to address all outstanding IAEA issues. The IAEA and Iran proceeded to negotiate the "Plan" during July and August, concluding with an agreement on the modalities of this cooperation on August 21. On August 27, 2007, the IAEA and Iran released a document entitled: "Understandings of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA on the Modalities of Resolution of the Outstanding Issues." This agreement, commonly referred to as the Work Plan, established the manner and sequence in which Iran and the IAEA Secretariat committed to resolve all outstanding verification issues with Iran's nuclear program.

On August 30, the Director General released his report to the Board on the implementation of safeguards since May 23, 2007. In it, he noted that Iran was continuing to install and operate centrifuges at Natanz, as well as to construct the Arak HWRR. The Director General also relayed additional details on the Work Plan and its implementation to date.

On November 15, the Director General released another report to the Board on the Implementation of IAEA Safeguards in Iran, as well as Resolutions 1737 and 1747 and the IAEA-Iran Work Plan. The report described Iran's cooperation under the Work Plan thus far, which was limited. The report indicated further that while Iran continued to refuse to acknowledge its continuing obligations under Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangement to its Safeguards Agreement, a Design Information Verification visit to the Arak reactor had taken place as requested. At the Board of Governors meeting on November 22-23, several IAEA member states urged Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to comply with its suspension obligations as established in Resolutions 1737 and 1747.

Promotion of the Benefits of Nuclear Energy

The United States strongly supported the efforts of IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Program to help member states use nuclear technologies to pursue sustainable development, while ensuring that all nuclear activity is safe, secure, and does not contribute to proliferation. In 2007, the United States contributed over \$19 million to the TC Fund and provided over \$4 million in

other cash and in-kind contributions. One example of using such technical cooperation to benefit human development was the design and application of the sterile insect technique (SIT) to eliminate the scourge of the tsetse fly in Ethiopia and other African member states. The United States provided the TC Program with the services of a cost-free expert with extensive experience in the technical and managerial aspects of large-scale SIT efforts. The United States expects that such efforts could lead eventually to the complete eradication of the tsetse fly from Africa.

Since 2006, the IAEA has taken on an increasing role in assisting developing countries interested in pursuing nuclear power to do so in a safe, secure manner. The role of the IAEA in this area was highlighted in General Conference resolutions in 2006 and 2007. In September 2007, the IAEA published a guidance document entitled “Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power,” building on an earlier Board document called “Considerations to Launch a Nuclear Power Program.” The IAEA is currently in the process of producing an assessment tool to help states determine their infrastructure development needs, developing a program to help states meet those needs, and conducting other infrastructure development-related activities. The United States has been a strong supporter of IAEA activities in infrastructure development, viewing this as an important means of responding to the desires of developing countries to pursue nuclear power while helping them understand and overcome the inherent challenges in running a nuclear power program. The United States has also made significant financial contributions to the IAEA’s infrastructure development activities. Secretary of Energy Bodman pledged \$1,000,000 in support in 2007.

Assurance of Supply of Nuclear Fuel

An international mechanism for reliable access to nuclear reactor fuel can be an important incentive for countries considering nuclear energy to rely on international markets for nuclear reactor fuel rather than pursuing indigenous sensitive fuel cycle activities. At the United States’ initiative, six nations that supply enriched uranium to the international market (France, Germany, The Netherlands, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) provided to the IAEA on May 31, 2006, a Concept for a Multilateral Mechanism for Reliable Access to Nuclear Fuel. This and other mutually compatible proposals were considered at a September 2006 special event at the IAEA on Assurances of Supply and Assurances of Nonproliferation.

On June 13, 2007, the IAEA Secretary-General provided a report to the Board on a Possible New Framework for the Utilization of Nuclear Energy: Options for Assurance of Supply of Nuclear Fuel. The Director-General’s report outlined the evolution of proposals that have been put forward for assuring the supply of nuclear fuel, and suggested a possible framework based on common themes. Following up on the Director-General’s report, the United States is working closely with other supplier states and with states which are potential beneficiaries of fuel-supply assurances to develop an international mechanism at the IAEA for reliable access to nuclear fuel.

Safeguards

The United States believes it is important that all NPT non-nuclear weapon states adopt the stronger safeguards provisions included in the Additional Protocol. At the end of December 2007, 116 states had signed the Additional Protocol, and 86 had ratified and brought it into force. During the year, the G-8 (comprised of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with participation of the European Union) continued a diplomatic effort begun during the U.S. presidency in 2004 to encourage all states that had not yet done so to sign and ratify safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

To demonstrate U.S. leadership on safeguards, the United States worked steadily to prepare for ratification and entry into force of the U.S. Additional Protocol.

Nuclear Security and Safety

In 2007, the IAEA continued to provide guidance, technical support, and training programs in the prevention of nuclear terrorism. The United States was a primary supporter of IAEA training programs in physical protection and nuclear security, having developed the training curricula and presented the courses and workshops on behalf of the Agency in eight training events in eight countries.

Under the IAEA's Nuclear Security Action Plan, the Agency accelerated its activities to prevent, detect, and respond to illicit activities involving nuclear and other radiological materials and facilities. With U.S. encouragement, the IAEA began to develop Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans with individual states. The plans provide an important tool for improved coordination with bilateral donor-state programs.

The IAEA also further developed its new and more encompassing International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) to help states evaluate and strengthen their overall nuclear security posture to include radioactive sources and border controls. The IAEA Board of Governors made substantial strides in the security of radioactive sources when it approved the revised Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (Code) in September 2003 and supplemental Guidance on the Export and Import of Radioactive Sources (Guidance) in September 2004. The United States took a leadership role in promoting the Code and Guidance as global benchmarks for controlling sources throughout their life cycle. By the end of 2007, over 90 member states had written to the IAEA Director General expressing their support for the Code. The United States continued its longstanding support of the IAEA's Model Project, which promotes the development of domestic infrastructures for the long-term management of radioactive sources, and other efforts through the Nuclear Security Action Plan to consolidate and protect vulnerable and orphan sources.

As a result of a joint U.S.-IAEA initiative in 2004, the Agency's appraisal tool for assessing the ability of states to manage radioactive sources

was enhanced to incorporate security as well as safety, in the Radioactive Source Safety and Security Infrastructure Appraisal (RaSSia).

In May 2004, the U.S. Secretary of Energy announced an ambitious new Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) to identify, secure, recover, and/or facilitate the disposition of high-risk, vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials around the world that pose a threat to the United States and the international community. Since its inception, the GTRI has worked in coordination with the IAEA to accelerate removal of high-risk, vulnerable nuclear materials around the world, speed up the global conversion of research reactor fuel from high-enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium, accelerate the securing or removal of vulnerable radiological materials worldwide, and address security “gaps” for nuclear and radiological material not yet covered by existing threat reduction programs.

The United States also continued to play a key role in the multi-year effort to amend the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. On July 8, 2005, a diplomatic conference of states parties adopted an amendment to the Convention. Among other provisions, the amendment extended the scope of the physical protection obligations in the unamended Convention by requiring each state party to the amended Convention to establish, implement, and maintain an appropriate physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material and nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes under its jurisdiction. The amendment also extended the scope of cooperation among states parties on physical protection matters and included new criminal offenses in the criminal regime established by the unamended Convention.

Finally, the IAEA continued its leadership role in strengthening international nuclear safety practices and standards. The IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security formulated and implemented the IAEA’s program on nuclear safety to fulfill statutory requirements, in cooperation with other departments within the IAEA, including the Department of Technical Cooperation. As is the case with other IAEA programs, the United States was an active participant in and supporter of efforts to enhance nuclear safety in all member states. During 2007, the United States allocated funds for priority nuclear safety-related projects. These projects included upgrading the Regulatory Authority Information System, which addresses member states’ need for a radioactive source inventory management system, and the continued work of the IAEA International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability.

The United States continued to support the development of a robust international response system for radiological emergencies, notably the establishment of the IAEA’s Incident and Emergency Center (IEC). The IEC provides a notification system for two conventions: the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

20/20 Initiative

IAEA Director-General ElBaradei initiated a study in 2007 on the nature and scope of the Agency's program over the next decade and resources required to sustain that program looking at the year 2020. To assist in this work, the Director-General set up a high-level panel of experts (Commission of Eminent Persons), to be led by former President of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo and including former U.S. Senator Samuel Nunn. The Secretariat is expected to release a background report in early 2008 for the Commission's consideration, and the Commission is expected to release its own report and recommendations in May 2008 for IAEA member states' consideration.

International Civil Aviation Organization

Established in 1944 and designated a UN specialized technical agency in 1947, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) promotes international cooperation for the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation with the objectives of security, safety, and environmental protection. Today's air transport industry includes nearly 900 scheduled air carriers worldwide operating about 21,500 aircraft. The United States has a vital interest in keeping civil aviation secure, safe, and efficient. ICAO is instrumental in achieving these objectives. It sets international standards and recommended practices for civil aviation, and offers technical assistance to enhance aviation safety and security worldwide. The United States strongly supports the work of ICAO.

ICAO had 190 members in 2007. The United States has been elected to ICAO's governing Council every third year since the organization was founded. The most recent Council election took place during the triennial Assembly in September 2007. Dr. Taïeb Chérif (Algeria) has served as Secretary-General since 2003 and was re-elected in 2006 to a second three-year term, which expires July 2009. Roberto Kobeh (Mexico) was elected President of the Council of ICAO in February 2006 and took office in August 2006, following the retirement of Assad Kotaite, who had served as Council President since 1976. The next triennial ICAO Assembly will be held in September 2010.

A primary U.S. objective is to improve ICAO's ability to coordinate technical assistance from donors to developing states, focusing on safety and security deficiencies, in addition to ICAO's role setting standards for civil aviation.

In 2007, ICAO gave civil aviation security substantial focus. ICAO continued implementation of its Aviation Security Plan of Action, originally adopted following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Council committed ICAO to funding Security Plan implementation from ICAO's regular budget, rather than rely on voluntary contributions. It also requested greater transparency and sharing among contracting states of data obtained from audits performed under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Program. In 2007 ICAO continued the cycles of security audits begun in 2002.

The United States actively participated in an ICAO legal subcommittee that produced draft amendments to The Hague and Montreal aviation counter-terrorism conventions to address new and emerging threats to civil aviation, such as the use of civil aircraft as weapons or the release of biological, chemical, or nuclear substances from or within an aircraft.

ICAO is shifting its focus from developing new standards to assisting member states with implementation of existing standards and from detailed technical specifications to performance-based standards. The Assembly endorsed a comprehensive safety plan for Africa. The Assembly also endorsed the substance of a U.S. proposal on a risk-based, continuous monitoring approach for the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP) after 2010. ICAO carried out 41 USOAP audits in 2007, including the assessment of the U.S. national aviation system. ICAO developed guidance material for implementing performance-based navigation, a new system that will improve safety and efficiency and also have environmental benefits. The Assembly passed a resolution urging states to adopt the guidance material as quickly as possible.

On environmental issues, the Council established a high-level group at the Assembly's request -- the Group on International Aviation and Climate Change (GIACC) -- to develop a comprehensive plan on international aviation and climate change. The GIACC plan will include a framework to achieve emissions reductions through voluntary measures, technological advances, operational measures, positive economic incentives, and market-based measures. The GIACC will consider possible establishment of a global aspirational goal for energy efficiency in the aviation sector. A majority of states at the Assembly supported implementation of greenhouse gas charges or emission trading schemes only on the basis of mutual consent. How to best address aviation greenhouse gas emissions will remain an important and contentious debate in ICAO.

During 2007 ICAO undertook important management reform initiatives, including adoption of a maximum of two three-year terms for the Council President, an important U.S. priority. (The Council limited the Secretary General to two three-year terms in 2006.) The Assembly also requested the Council to consider changing the term of the external auditor from three years to six years, as the United States had suggested. The Assembly adopted ICAO's first results-based budget, which reallocated resources from administrative overhead to the strategic objectives of safety and security. Less critical activities would be placed in a new Ancillary Revenue Generating Fund and would continue only on a cost-recovery, break-even basis. This triennial budget (2008-2010) of Canadian \$245.5 million projected elimination of 111 posts (recently estimated to result in actual termination of about 30 employees after attrition and reassignment). The Assembly directed the Council to consider a split assessment, i.e., collection of assessments in Canadian and U.S. dollars, a change the United States strongly

supported, to minimize exchange rate risk by collecting currencies roughly in the proportion that the Organization expends them.

International Health Organizations

International Agency for Research on Cancer

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a subsidiary body of the World Health Organization (WHO), is a leading cancer research institute that monitors global cancer occurrence, identifies causes of cancer, and develops scientific strategies for cancer control. The IARC Governing Council, with 19 member states, including Ireland which became a new member in 2007, met at IARC headquarters in Lyon, France, on May 10-11, 2007. The Governing Council discussed IARC's program of work in cancer prevention and its various collaborative research efforts and took action on various administrative issues. Dr. Peter Boyle (United Kingdom), a cancer epidemiologist and biostatistician, continued his fourth year as IARC Director.

U.S. regular budget contributions to IARC (based on a 9.88 percent assessment) were \$1.84 million in 2007. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided voluntary contributions. IARC had a total staff of 166, of which 57 were professional posts; of those, 6 or 10.5 percent were held by U.S. citizens.

Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS

The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) began formal operations in 1996. UNAIDS is comprised of a Geneva-based Secretariat and 10 co-sponsoring bodies: the World Health Organization, the UN Development Program, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund, the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the International Labor Organization, the World Food Program, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Bank. UNAIDS also has a cooperation agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization. UNAIDS has a field-based staff and works directly in 75 countries, dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic primarily through country-coordination theme groups that seek to mobilize all sectors to address AIDS. Dr. Peter Piot (Belgium) has been the Executive Director of UNAIDS since its inception. His current term will expire in December 2008.

UNAIDS' governing body is the Program Coordinating Board (PCB), which meets three to four times per biennium. The PCB oversees UNAIDS' all-voluntary budget and acts on issues concerning policy, strategy, finance, monitoring, and evaluation. The PCB is comprised of 22 member states, distributed by region and elected from among the member states of the cosponsoring organizations; six representatives from the cosponsoring organizations; and five representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including three from developing countries and two from developed countries. Representatives from the UNAIDS cosponsoring organizations and NGOs serving on the PCB have the right to participate fully in PCB

deliberations, but do not have the right to vote. The PCB seeks to operate by consensus whenever possible. Member states are elected by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for three-year terms, but can choose to cede a portion of their term to another member state, subject to ECOSOC approval. The United States was re-elected to the PCB in 2007 and will serve through 2010. The United States was also elected to the position of PCB Vice-Chair in 2007 and, per UNAIDS tradition, will become Chair of the PCB in 2008.

The PCB met twice in 2007 (June 25-27 and December 17-18). The PCB approved a core program and budget for the 2008-2009 financial period of \$469 million and agreed to focus UNAIDS' resources on supporting country-driven efforts to scale up towards universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care, and support by 2010; mobilizing political and financial support for the global effort to fight HIV/AIDS; and combating stigma, discrimination, and gender inequities. Through active participation in the PCB meetings and diligent intercessional work with the UNAIDS Secretariat and PCB members, the United States successfully ensured that PCB decisions endorsed the need for the international response to HIV/AIDS to remain country-driven and emphasized the key role of the UN system in advocating for development of national strategies through inclusive, transparent processes and in providing technical support to countries in key areas such as monitoring and evaluation. The United States also supported UNAIDS' efforts to shift from an emergency response paradigm to ensuring a sustained response to the AIDS pandemic.

In 2007, the UNAIDS PCB continued to consider ways to enhance the meaningful participation of civil society representatives in the PCB meetings and in UNAIDS' work more broadly. The United States backed a PCB decision that affirmed the essential role of NGOs in PCB discussions without fundamentally altering the formal decision-making processes used across the UN system. The PCB also agreed to initiate an independent evaluation of the functioning of UNAIDS, to be completed by June 2009. The evaluation is a major opportunity to refocus the work of the Joint Program in light of the evolving epidemiological and development landscape. Another important PCB decision in 2007 concerned the UN system's provision of technical support to countries. There is widespread recognition that developing countries need technical support on system strengthening and administration, as well as clinical expertise. In 2005, UNAIDS established the Global Joint Implementation Support Team (GIST) to coordinate multilateral technical support. The United States joined the GIST in 2006 and continued to support its work in 2007. In 2007, the PCB determined that the GIST should focus solely on coordinating technical support provided by others to ensure consistency of guidance and avoid duplication of donor efforts, rather than providing direct technical support to countries. The effects of this change in mandate will be analyzed at the 23rd meeting of the PCB in December 2008.

The United States worked closely with UNAIDS during 2007 to highlight the importance of voluntary HIV testing and counseling and to

support national testing day initiatives. In an excellent example of the Joint Program in action, experts from the UNAIDS Secretariat and World Health Organization worked with U.S. Government staff to develop a tool kit of best practices and assessment tools that countries could use in implementing the UN General Assembly decision calling for voluntary counseling and testing events. Throughout 2007, members of this multi-agency team of experts helped countries implement national HIV counseling and testing events. As one example of the team's success, Malawi set a target of testing 130,000 people during its national testing week campaign and by the end of the event more than 186,000 people chose to be tested. Events such as this one successfully raised AIDS awareness, reduced stigma and, most importantly, helped individuals and couples learn their HIV status and take control of their personal responses to HIV/AIDS.

The UNAIDS core budget for 2006-2007 was \$406.7 million, comprised completely of voluntary contributions. The United States continued to be among the major donors to UNAIDS and provided approximately 20 percent (\$29.7 million) to UNAIDS' 2007 core budget. The United States provided an additional \$4.5 million in 2007 to support UNAIDS' technical support facilities and \$158,000 for UNAIDS staff support.

In 2007, American citizens held four Director-level positions in the UNAIDS Secretariat: Director of the Department of Evidence, Monitoring and Policy; Director of the Department of Resource Management; Director of the Washington, D.C., Liaison Office; and Director of the Global Coalition of Women and AIDS.

Pan American Health Organization

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), established in 1902 as the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, is the world's oldest intergovernmental health organization. The Pan American Sanitary Conference of PAHO convened at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., on October 1-5, 2007. U.S. officials, including U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt, participated in that meeting, as well as in meetings of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming in March and the PAHO Executive Committee in June.

The Director of PAHO, Dr. Mirta Roses (Argentina), who took office in February 2003, continued to focus on the priorities of creating greater health equity for the poor, forging new alliances and strengthening regional solidarity, tackling the emerging health challenges in the Americas, and advocating for continued improvements in the region's health systems.

PAHO's strategies and work with countries of the Americas in 2007 focused on the importance of achieving the health-related development goals of the Millennium Declaration, such as reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, strengthening preparedness for and response to disasters, increasing access to safe drinking water, improving immunization coverage, and controlling HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The Pan American Sanitary Conference discussed and adopted resolutions on pressing health issues: avian and pandemic flu preparedness, malaria, a regional action plan on human resources for health, dengue prevention and control, elimination of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in the Americas, strengthening health statistics, immunizations, maternal and child health, and patient safety. The Conference also discussed PAHO's Strategic Plan 2008-2012, and the Program Budget for 2008-2009. Representatives of PAHO's 38 member states participated, mostly at the ministerial level. A new Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration, as approved by the 2006 Directing Council, met for the first time in 2007 and considered a range of budget, management, and administrative issues.

The United States pays over 59 percent of the PAHO budget with a scale of assessments that is based on that of the Organization of American States, adjusted for membership. The United States provided \$57 million to the PAHO regular assessed budget in 2007, as well as voluntary contributions of approximately \$16.5 million. In 2007, PAHO had a total staff of 1,618, of which 516 were professional posts. U.S. citizens filled 76, or 14.7 percent, of the professional posts.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, was established in 1948 with the objective of "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health." In 2007, WHO worked in close partnership with its 193 member states, two associate members, many international organizations, more than 180 nongovernmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 leading health-related institutions around the world designated as "WHO collaborating centers." WHO representatives in 142 countries worked with health ministries as advisors and managers of technical cooperation programs.

During 2007, U.S. representatives participated in meetings of the World Health Assembly; the WHO Executive Board; Regional Committees for the Americas, the Western Pacific, and Africa; and the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. U.S. officials also participated in meetings of the management committees of WHO's major voluntarily-funded programs, the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property, and the Intergovernmental Meeting on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness.

Dr. Margaret Chan (Hong Kong) assumed the leadership of WHO on January 4, 2007, following her election in November 2006 as WHO Director-General for a term of office of 5.5 years. Dr. Chan's extraordinary election took place due to the death of former Director-General Dr. Jong-Wook Lee (South Korea) in May 2006. Dr. Chan was one of 13 candidates nominated, and on November 9, 2006, an extraordinary World Health Assembly convened to elect her formally. In an address to staff on her first day in office, Dr. Chan

gave highest priority to improving the health of women and the health of people in Africa. She also emphasized the importance of the entry into force of International Health Regulations (IHRs) and WHO's actions in support of the IHRs. Such actions are proactive risk management measures that aim to stop serious disease outbreaks or other public health events at the source, before they can become an international threat.

The IHRs entered into force in June 2007. All WHO member states agreed to become States Parties to the IHRs, which have the force of international law. During 2007, WHO and the States Parties began the work of implementation, including surveillance and reporting of incidents to the WHO and developing the core capacities necessary for full compliance with the IHRs. The United States brought its procedures for notification of potential public health emergencies of international concern into alignment with the requirements of the IHRs. The IHRs establish an international legal framework for States Parties to notify the WHO and respond to a public health emergency of international concern. The IHRs obligate States Parties to strengthen their ability to detect, respond to, reduce or eliminate the spread of public health emergencies, and to report in a timely way to WHO. The IHRs also authorize the WHO Director-General to issue non-binding recommendations on measures that affected States Parties should take, including, if necessary, restrictions on travel and commerce to and from affected areas. During 2007, the WHO Secretariat noted it was taking steps to accelerate IHR implementation to be able to provide immediate assistance to affected countries on effective control measures, laboratory support, and outbreak communications.

The 2007 World Health Assembly also addressed a number of issues important to the United States. Principal among them was the adoption of a resolution on pandemic influenza preparedness that focused on the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits. A drafting group met 13 times over the course of the Assembly to reach agreement on a consensus resolution. The key disagreement related to how to address the demands of Indonesia to promote mechanisms for sharing benefits that arise from the provision of viruses by countries to the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN), as well as fundamental changes to the network, such as the requirement for prior informed consent before viruses could pass to public or private sector entities for research or commercial purposes. The United States and other like-minded countries sought to improve access to vaccines for developing countries while preserving the GISN and reaffirming the importance of unencumbered sharing of viruses within the network. The consensus resolution called on the Director-General to organize an interdisciplinary working group to revise the terms of reference of laboratories associated with the GISN. In addition, the resolution instructed WHO to develop mechanisms for benefit-sharing, to develop a pandemic vaccine stockpile, to commission an expert report on patent issues related to influenza viruses, and to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider the work being done by WHO and that of the interdisciplinary working group. While

the resolution was adopted by consensus, the United States issued an Explanation of Position that reaffirmed the U.S. view that governments have an obligation to share viruses, that under the International Health Regulations withholding viruses constitutes a threat to global health, and that vaccine development is a critical part of response activities.

The Assembly reached agreement on a resolution on public health, innovation, and intellectual property, with the United States disassociating from the resolution due to language that sought to dictate the outcome to the WHO Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property, set up in 2006 to draw up a global strategy and plan of action to provide a medium-term framework based on the recommendations of the 2006 Report of the Commission on Innovation, Public Health and Intellectual Property. The IGWG convened several times during 2007. The United States sought a pragmatic focus on research and development into needs-driven essential health research rather than compulsory licenses and other issues relating to patents.

The World Health Assembly also adopted a resolution on smallpox. It called for a major review in 2010 of progress on research on the variola virus for better vaccines, anti-viral drugs, and other diagnostics at the two official repositories in the Russian Federation and the United States before the World Health Assembly in 2011 considers whether to seek a consensus decision to set a destruction date of the official virus stocks. With this resolution South Africa and several other African countries dropped their earlier calls for the immediate destruction of the authorized smallpox stocks held at the official repositories.

The Assembly also considered a variety of substantive topics such as the progress on polio eradication, malaria, tuberculosis, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, maternal and newborn and child health, health systems, rational use of medicines, and health technologies.

The Assembly rejected a proposal by several countries with diplomatic relations with Taiwan for granting membership to Taiwan. There was a limited debate on the proposal, with the Assembly president allowing no more than two countries to speak in favor of the proposal and two countries to speak against. Following an objection from Belize against closure of the debate, the issue of whether to close the debate and delete an agenda item on "Admission of New Members" was put to the vote. The vote was 148 (U.S.) in favor, 17 against, and 2 abstentions.

Once again, the Assembly took up the long-standing agenda item on "Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine." The draft resolution proposed by a number of Arab states was extremely unbalanced in its references to Israel. The United States requested a roll-call vote; the resolution was adopted, with the United States and seven other countries voting against it, and a number of abstentions and absences. The United States emphasized the humanitarian and

medical assistance going to the Palestinian people and opposed the use of the Assembly as a political forum.

The Assembly adopted by consensus the 2008-2009 WHO budget. It totaled \$4.2 billion, a nearly \$1 billion increase from the \$3.3 billion approved for 2006-2007. The Assembly also adopted the six-year Medium-Term Strategic Plan, which is subject to review every two years. The United States expressed strong support for the budget and the Medium-Term Strategic Plan as part of WHO's results-based management framework. The total WHO budget for 2008-2009 is \$4,227,480,000. This amount includes \$928,840,000 in the regular assessed budget (a four percent increase), \$3,268,640,000 in anticipated extra-budgetary income, and \$30,000,000 in estimated miscellaneous income. The Program, Budget, and Administration Committee also met prior to the Assembly and considered in depth management and reform issues, results-based management initiatives, and the development of the Global Management System, an integrated program-management and administration system. The Assembly also considered reports from the external and internal auditors and human resources.

In 2007, the United States provided \$101.4 million (22 percent) to the WHO regular assessed budget, as well as approximately \$166.7 million in voluntary contributions.

Within the WHO staff, there were more American citizens in professional posts than citizens of any other country. During 2007, U.S. citizens held the senior posts of Assistant Director-General for Health Technologies and Pharmaceuticals, Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases, Assistant Legal Counsel, Director of Internal Audit and Oversight, and Director of Security and Staff Services. In 2007, the WHO had 1,745 posts subject to geographic distribution; of those, U.S. citizens held 152 posts, or 8.7 percent. The total WHO staff on long-term appointments was 5,253. In addition, the WHO employs 2,779 individuals on short-term contracts.

International Labor Organization

The International Labor Organization (ILO), founded in 1919, promotes humane labor conditions. The organization's core mission is to foster respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, such as freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, prohibitions on forced labor and child labor, and non-discrimination in employment. It also seeks to assist states to create greater employment opportunities, enhance social protection, and strengthen social dialogue among governments, employers, and workers, with the goal of contributing to poverty alleviation and increased social stability around the world.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the ILO has 182 member states. Juan Somavia (Chile) was elected Director-General of the ILO in 1999 and re-elected to a second five-year term that began in March 2004.

Representatives of workers' and employers' organizations participate as part of each national delegation at the Governing Body, the ILO's executive board, and at the annual International Labor Conference (ILC). This tripartite structure is unique to the ILO. As one of the 10 countries of "chief industrial importance," the United States has a permanent government seat on the ILO's 56-member Governing Body. In addition, the AFL-CIO represents U.S. workers and the New York-based U.S. Council for International Business represents U.S. employers in the Governing Body. These representatives speak and vote independently of the U.S. Government.

In 2007, the ILO advanced U.S. policy priorities for universal human rights and economic growth and development. The ILO also helped to advance U.S. interests in the key areas of fundamental principles and rights at work, eradication of forced labor and child labor, education on HIV/AIDS in the workplace, and technical assistance in Afghanistan, China, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Also in 2007, the ILO continued to focus international attention on forced labor in Burma, which a 1998 ILO Commission of Inquiry found to be widespread and systematic. The ILO also cited major offenders of labor rights, which supports U.S. efforts to further democratic changes and promote human rights.

The ILO plays a key role in combating exploitative child labor worldwide, a U.S. priority. The year 2007 marked the 15th year of operation for the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), the largest technical cooperation program in the ILO. In 2007, IPEC removed or prevented nearly 130,000 children from exploitative work through the provision of educational and training opportunities in ongoing projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. From 1995 to 2007, the Department of Labor provided close to \$300 million to ILO/IPEC to remove or prevent some 740,000 children from the worst forms of child labor in 79 countries.

The ILO provided advice and/or technical assistance to constituents in areas including labor law reform, modernization of labor ministries, skills training and development, entrepreneurship training, and HIV/AIDS in the workplace. The ILO has been particularly helpful in the negotiation and implementation of labor clauses in free trade agreements signed by the United States by providing expert analysis of labor law and practice and implementing programs to build the capacity of tripartite partners in the labor area.

International Maritime Organization

The mission of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is to foster international cooperation to promote maritime safety, security, and the protection of the marine environment. International trade is critical to the U.S. economy, and shipping carries nearly 90 percent of the world's trade. The United States strongly supports IMO's work. The IMO develops conventions and treaties on international shipping, facilitates international maritime trade,

and provides technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries. The IMO also develops standards and practices to protect against oil spills and pollution from hazardous and noxious cargo, ship waste, ballast water, and emissions.

The United States has been elected to the IMO's 40-member Governing Council every two years since the organization was founded in 1948. Efthimios Mitropoulos (Greece) is the Secretary-General of the IMO. He served an initial four-year term (2004-2007), and in November 2006 the Council approved him for a second four-year term. The IMO has 167 full IMO members and three associate members (Hong Kong, Macao, and the Faroe Islands).

The IMO supports U.S. interests by enhancing maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. Significantly, the IMO created the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, which incorporated U.S.-sponsored amendments into universal international standards that parallel U.S. domestic maritime security requirements. The IMO also adopted regulations and guidance on implementing Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships, a U.S. initiative, to enhance maritime domain awareness and security. IMO has also focused on protecting vital shipping lanes of strategic importance. After IMO-coordinated action helped suppress piracy in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, IMO turned to the rapidly increasing problem of piracy off Somalia against commercial ships, humanitarian shipments, and other maritime traffic. At its November 2007 session, the IMO Assembly adopted a resolution outlining steps to be taken by IMO and other relevant stakeholders to address piracy off Somalia. This IMO resolution led the UN Security Council to adopt Resolution 1816, which facilitated the authorization of states cooperating with Somalia's Transitional Federal Government to enter Somalia's territorial waters for six months and use "all necessary means" to repress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea, in a manner consistent with relevant provisions of international law.

The 2007 Assembly adopted a resolution that delayed the application of ballast water control standards for ships built in 2009 in response to the lack of immediately available, approved technologies to prevent the transfer of invasive alien species in ballast water. The U.S. Government successfully sought to have the delay limited both in time and in application (only to ships built in 2009).

Other Assembly resolutions concerned guidelines on voyage planning for passenger ships operating in remote areas, provision of mobile satellite communications systems in the maritime distress and safety system, and amendments to regulations for preventing collisions at sea.

In 2007, the IMO continued the audits of member states begun in 2006 under the IMO Voluntary Audit Scheme (Audit Scheme). The Audit Scheme helps to promote maritime safety, security, and environmental protection by assessing how effectively member states are implementing and enforcing IMO Convention standards. The audits also provide feedback to the

member states with advice on how to improve their performance. Eventually 33 countries will be audited each year on a five-year, rotating basis. The Audit Scheme should bring about many benefits, such as identifying where capacity-building activities would have the greatest effect.

The IMO identified the Papahānaumokuākea (formerly Northwest Hawaiian Islands) Marine National Monument as a particularly sensitive sea area, with associated protective measures.

On management, the 2007 Assembly approved the change in the Organization's accounting standards from the United Nations Accounting System to the new International Public Sector Accounting Standards, from 2010.

International Telecommunication Union

Established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) serves as a forum for governments and the private sector to facilitate the operation of international telecommunication networks and services. In 2007, there were 191 member states and over 700 sector and associate members in the ITU. Dr. Hamadoun Touré (Mali) began his first term as Secretary-General of the ITU on January 1, 2007. ITU activities touch on areas of fundamental importance for U.S. national and commercial security, particularly those related to radio spectrum allocation, setting of global telecommunication standards, and consideration of global telecommunication policy.

The 46-member ITU Council, of which the United States is a member, is the governing board of the ITU between plenipotentiary conferences. The Council is comprised of representatives from five regions: the Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia elected at plenipotentiary conferences. It meets annually to address management and other issues. The Geneva-based ITU held its annual Council meeting September 4-14, 2007. The United States was particularly interested in:

- Approval of the ITU budget for 2008-2009 (the United States stated that relying on the reserve account to balance the budget was not a viable long-term strategy);
- A proposed model agreement for countries that want to host an ITU meeting (the United States successfully deferred the adoption of the model agreement until the next Council pending clarification of legal points); and
- The Global Cybersecurity Agenda (the United States wanted to link it to the cybersecurity work ongoing in the ITU Development Sector, where the United States has been very active).

The Council strengthened the Union's mandate for implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), establishing a WSIS Task Force under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General. At the

urging of the U.S. delegate, the Council also decided to delay implementation of new contractual arrangements for ITU staff until such time as the UN General Assembly takes a final decision on the approach to be taken by the entire UN Common System.

ITU took several steps to further cybersecurity, a priority issue for the United States. On May 17, 2007, the ITU Secretary-General launched the Global Cybersecurity Agenda. An ITU study group developed a “Report on Best Practices for a National Approach to Cybersecurity.” The ITU Cybersecurity Work Program released a national self-assessment toolkit on cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection, as well as a botnet mitigation toolkit.

The United States has considerable interests in all areas of ITU activities. The Radiocommunication Sector’s treaty-level World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) is central to U.S. national security and commercial interests. The WRC is held every 3 - 4 years and last met October 22 - November 16, 2007. These conferences allocate scarce frequency bands to radio services and assign equally scarce orbital slots to member states, which in turn make decisions about their use for radio and other services. The U.S. private sector is very engaged in the Standardization (T) and Radiocommunication (R) Sectors. The standardization activities of the ITU are indispensable to U.S. Government and commercial interests to ensure world-wide compatibility and interoperability of global networks.

UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established in 1945 with the primary objective of contributing to peace and security worldwide. Since rejoining UNESCO on October 1, 2003, the United States continues to promote U.S. priorities at UNESCO in each of the Organization’s five sectors: education, culture, communication and information, natural sciences, and social and human sciences. By promoting collaboration among nations, UNESCO strives to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. Priority programs foster and defend the free flow of ideas and open access to education for all, build understanding of democratic principles and practice, promote scientific knowledge, and protect the cultural and natural heritage of humankind. UNESCO, which has a Secretariat headquartered in Paris, has 193 member states and has been led since 1999 by Director-General Koichiro Matsuura (Japan).

The General Conference, UNESCO’s supreme governing body, consists of all UNESCO member states. The General Conference meets every two years and has primary responsibility for approving the program and budget, the medium-term strategy, and elections to UNESCO committees and organs. A U.S. delegation participated in the 34th General Conference in Paris in October 2007. The General Conference adopted a biennial budget of \$631

million and a new mid-term review for 2008-2013 that includes new language holding the Secretariat accountable for achieving certain specified outcomes by the end of the biennium. The mid-term review was also adopted as a “rolling” strategy, which allows the member states and the Secretariat the flexibility to amend the document when major reforms are implemented in the UN system or within UNESCO.

The General Conference also adopted a U.S.-initiated resolution on Holocaust Remembrance, which was co-sponsored by 69 member states. The consensus resolution asked the UNESCO Director-General to consult the UN Secretary-General on how UNESCO could promote Holocaust Remembrance through education and combat all forms of Holocaust denial. The Secretariat will report to the 179th Executive Board (Fall 2008) on the consultations with the UN Secretary-General and with a list of proposed follow-on activities. During the 34th General Conference, the United States was re-elected to the Executive Board and elected to the Legal Committee, the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, the Intergovernmental Council of the International Program for the Development of Communication, and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee.

The Executive Board, one of UNESCO’s governing bodies, consists of 58 member states with four-year terms of office. It examines the program of work and corresponding budget proposals and ensures the effective and rational execution of the program by the Director-General. A U.S. delegation participated in the semiannual Board Session in Paris in April 2007 (176th Session) and September 2007 (177th Session). The main focus in the run-up to the 34th General Conference was the preparation and final acceptance of the proposed \$631 million budget. Additionally, member states made a strong push for greater involvement by UNESCO in efforts to combat climate change. The Asia-Pacific group proposed a resolution on climate change during the 177th Executive Board, which was adopted by consensus after much debate as to UNESCO’s proper role in the global effort to combat climate change. Member states eventually agreed that UNESCO has a role to play, but that it should not go beyond its area of expertise and should not duplicate efforts of other UN bodies. The resolution also included language that called upon the Secretariat to develop a climate change strategy.

In 2007, UNESCO had several successes in the area of education, a main priority for the United States at UNESCO. The United States worked with other member states to advance a General Conference resolution strengthening UNESCO’s Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa and continued to promote results-based education programs at the country level. UNESCO co-hosted four regional literacy conferences to help raise awareness and promote best practices in fighting illiteracy. These conferences took place in Qatar, Mali, China, and India. UNESCO continued to increase the number of countries implementing the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) program, a literacy strategic framework with the goal of

achieving concrete, measurable results in 35 countries with the highest rates of illiteracy. UNESCO also continued to make progress on its ground-breaking literacy measurement tool, the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Program (LAMP).

Since 1986, the United States has regularly made voluntary contributions to UNESCO. The 2007 contribution totaled \$990,000 and was used to support UNESCO-related international educational, scientific, cultural, and communications activities considered to be in the U.S. national interest. The UNESCO regular budget for 2007 was approximately \$305 million; the U.S. assessment was \$80 million. Of the 742 positions subject to geographic distribution, Americans held 35 posts in 2007. The United States is aggressively promoting the hiring of qualified Americans by UNESCO.

UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

The UN General Assembly established the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) in 1955 to provide continuous review and evaluation of the effects of ionizing radiation on humans and their environment. Governments and international organizations around the world rely on UNSCEAR evaluations for estimating radiological risk, establishing protection and safety standards, regulating radioactive materials, informing policy decisions, and targeting international assistance programs. UNSCEAR's work is of significant interest to many U.S. agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Energy.

The 55th session met in Vienna May 21-25, 2007. The U.S. delegation, led by Dr. Fred Mettler of the University of New Mexico and the Veterans Administration, included seven other advisors from academia, the private sector, and the U.S. Government. The Scientific Committee reviewed advanced versions of documents on radiation exposures of the public and workers, accidental exposures to radiation, exposures resulting from medical uses of radiation, effects of ionizing radiation on non-human biota, radiation health effects due to the Chernobyl accident, and a summary report on the sources and effects of radiation exposure.. These documents were considered at previous sessions of the Scientific Committee.

UNSCEAR is an independent UN advisory body and reports its findings directly to the UN General Assembly. The UN Environment Program (UNEP) provides administrative support for UNSCEAR, and funding for the UNSCEAR Secretariat and operations are included in the UNEP program and budget. Communication and coordination between UNSCEAR and UNEP have greatly improved in recent years, and the United States continues to encourage cooperation between UNEP and the UNSCEAR Secretariat to maintain recent improvements in UNSCEAR administration.

The Secretariat of UNSCEAR continued its efforts to raise awareness of the work and relevance of UNSCEAR outside of the traditional scientific community. UNSCEAR products are available electronically on its website for access by the public. In light of U.S. and international efforts to prevent, manage, and mitigate radiological incidents and considering the burgeoning interest in nuclear energy, the United States has supported UNSCEAR's continuing to operate as an effective, credible, and independent scientific body and that its findings be widely disseminated.

Universal Postal Union

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, facilitates the efficient operation of postal services across national borders and serves as a forum for regulatory and customer issues related to postal and express delivery markets. The United States joined the UPU at its founding in 1874. The UPU has since grown to encompass 191 member countries. In recent years, the United States has successfully encouraged the UPU to maintain fiscal discipline and advance strategic planning, measurement of the service performance of individual postal administrations, and innovative voluntary organizations known as "cooperatives" that have brought to the UPU corporate-like structures that feature weighted voting, targeted business plans, and boards whose directors are elected *ad personam*.

Edouard Dayan of France is the current Director General of the UPU Secretariat (International Bureau). Romania chairs the Council of Administration, and the United States chairs the Postal Operations Council (POC). Michael Regan of the U.S. Postal Service currently serves as POC Chairman.

In 2007, U.S. policy goals continued to focus on re-designing how the various postal administrations pay one another for the handling and delivery of international mail. The new design for such fees, otherwise known as "terminal dues," more closely aligns payments to the actual costs incurred. U.S. policy goals also focused on improving operations, refining methodologies for measuring performance by postal administrations in delivering international mail, and linking inter-administration payments to performance. Other goals included solidifying private-sector participation in the UPU and strengthening the UPU's strategic planning capabilities.

Work on terminal dues progressed with a strong show of support for changes in the methodology used to calculate payments and how and when member countries would transition from the old payment system to the new. The recommended changes will be voted upon at the 2008 Congress held in Geneva.

During 2007, the UPU continued to refine its plans for implementing a "global monitoring system" to measure the performance of postal administrations in delivering inbound international mail. A system for measuring performance in industrialized countries was deployed in 2005, as was linking performance to terminal dues payments. The UPU is attempting

to deploy more widely performance measurements as technology becomes more affordable.

The UPU drafted a new international agreement governing the exchange of electronic money transfers. The draft agreement contains provisions that address money laundering and anti-terrorism activities, as well as the settlement of accounts between postal administrations. The draft agreement will be considered during the 2008 Congress and, if adopted, enter into force in 2010.

The UPU's Consultative Committee, which was formed by the 2004 Bucharest Congress and whose members include private sector associations of mailers, express delivery firms, trade unions, equipment manufacturers, and other postal stakeholders, pursued a work program focusing on trade matters and projects of particular interest to large mailers, such as cross-border address-forwarding and access models. The Chairman of the Committee, Charles Prescott of the Direct Marketing Association, is a U.S. citizen. The UPU is one of the few UN specialized agencies that allows such active participation by private sector representatives at its meetings.

Throughout 2007, the United States played a central role in innovative work carried out by the UPU's Strategic Planning Group in the area of results-based management. The Group adopted a concept proposed by the United States under which the UPU produces "report cards" showing the progress made by each member administration in achieving selected UPU strategic goals. The latter include service and tracking performance, access to postal services, and legislative reform of national postal services.

In 2007, the Strategic Planning Group, acting upon a recommendation by the United States, formally sought the views of member countries about UPU strategic and budgetary priorities through surveys containing specific lists of discretionary UPU activities. The intent was to prioritize the activities in the biennial UPU Program and Budget so that optimum use could be made of limited financial resources.

During 2007, the United States remained actively engaged in the efforts of several working groups of both the POC and the Council of Administration, whose overall purpose is to ensure high-quality international postal services at affordable prices.

In 2007, the United States chaired the POC. Within the POC, the United States continued to lead the Postal Security Action Group and Standards Board and served in key positions in the Telematics Cooperative, the Express Mail Service (EMS) Cooperative, the Terminal Dues Project Group, and the Quality of Service Fund Board of Trustees. Due to UPU regulations requiring rotation among countries, the United States could not serve on the Council of Administration during the period 2005-2008.

The UPU operates under a biennial budget. The Bucharest Congress approved an overall budget ceiling of 148 million Swiss francs for the next two biennial UPU budgets (through 2008). The assessed UPU budget for

2007-2008 is 68.7 million Swiss francs. The UPU approved budget has remained constant since 1998.

Member country contributions to the UPU are determined according to “contribution units” that each country volunteers to pay. The United States subscribes to 50 contribution units, which amounts to approximately 5.7 percent of the UPU budget. The cost to the United States was approximately \$1.6 million in 2007. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service made extra-budgetary contributions to UPU in 2007 amounting to \$345,000 including the salary of a postal security consultant seconded to the UPU staff.

The UPU staff operating under the regular budget is comprised of 63 professionals. At the end of 2007, one of these professionals was an American citizen. In addition, one American was working in the general services category and five Americans were employed using extra-budgetary resources.

World Intellectual Property Organization

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) promotes the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world through cooperation among member states. Established by the WIPO Convention in 1967, it became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1974. WIPO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and operates several offices around the world, including in New York, Washington, D.C., and Brussels, Belgium. Dr. Kamil Idris (Sudan) was the Director-General in 2007. There are 184 members of the WIPO Convention. The United States is currently a party to 14 WIPO treaties. Fees for service generate more than 90 percent of WIPO’s revenue, and fees paid by U.S. nationals comprise approximately 40 percent of WIPO’s fee revenue.

WIPO administers various treaties that deal with the legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property, which include patents, copyrights, and trademarks. The two principal treaties are the Paris and Berne Conventions (with, in 2007, 172 and 163 members respectively). WIPO also administers 20 multilateral “unions” (the treaty administering organs).

The General Assemblies of WIPO Unions were held in Geneva from September 24-October 3, 2007. The WIPO General Assembly (GA), of which the United States is a member, addressed many important ongoing issues facing the organization, including efforts to strengthen accountability and oversight within the organization, the establishment of a constructive framework to assess further integration of a development dimension into WIPO’s work, and the need to improve WIPO’s services for users, including discussion of a reduction in Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) fees.

A crisis of leadership at WIPO severely impaired its ability to function well. At the General Assembly, the United States successfully pushed for discussion of an internal audit report alleging misconduct by the Director-General. The United States helped block adoption of the 2008-2009 WIPO budget during the Assembly because the internal audit report had not

been adequately addressed. The United States worked with other countries to restore accountability and transparency to the Organization.

Despite earlier efforts to curtail the Director-General's ability to make personnel promotions and to fill positions through direct recruitment, high-level promotions continued. A 2007 desk-to-desk audit recommended that a number of positions should be downsized and the role of certain staff clarified. The 2007 Assembly considered the audit, the Secretariat's comments on it, and the Audit Committee's observations and recommendations. The Assembly requested the Secretariat to develop a road map for implementation of the audit's recommendations and requested the Audit Committee to review a proposal to implement the recommendations under an integrated organizational improvement plan and the Secretariat's road map. Also, a 2005 Joint Inspection Unit report noted budget concerns as the organization had been adjusting fees for projected needs rather than basing its budget on a human/financial needs assessment. While action on some measures, including the establishment of an internal audit committee (designed to improve internal accountability and management controls) has begun, several initiatives, particularly in the area of staff and human resource issues, remain outstanding.

The 2007 Assembly adopted new financial rules and regulations that enter into force on January 1, 2008. The Assembly also approved, in principle, WIPO's adoption by 2010 of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. The Assembly revised the terms of reference of the Audit Committee and the Internal Audit Charter, which is required, pursuant to the Charter, every two years.

The Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of which the United States is an active member, continued its work. The 2007 Assembly extended until 2009 the IGC's mandate.

At the 10th meeting of the IGC in 2006, the United States successfully negotiated a new work plan for both traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. At the 11th IGC in July 2007, there was discussion of a list of issues on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions drafted by the Chairperson of the 10th IGC. In discussion of this list, the U.S. delegation and others called for deeper consideration of fact-based examples and national experiences to resolve concerns raised by Members.

The 2006 WIPO General Assembly agreed to an extension and a specific format for the work of the Provisional Committee on Proposals related to a WIPO Development Agenda (PCDA). The PCDA met twice in 2007, prior to the 2007 Assembly, to discuss proposals for elements of a WIPO development agenda. After lengthy negotiations, participants in the PCDA reached agreement on a package of 45 development-oriented proposals that were adopted by the 2007 General Assembly. These proposals are aimed at assisting and encouraging developing countries to take advantage of the intellectual property protection system to foster innovation and economic development in their countries. Member states also agreed to establish a

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property to develop a work program to implement the adopted proposals.

While the 2005 Assembly instituted a process to move forward on discussions on substantive patent law harmonization, WIPO members remained deadlocked in deciding on a work plan for the Standing Committee on Patents in both 2006 and 2007. The industrialized countries want to pursue harmonization of patent examination standards (so-called "prior art" issues), but several developing countries are opposed to this narrow focus and want to include numerous controversial topics in the discussions, such as a new patent disclosure requirement relating to genetic resources and traditional knowledge. At the 2007 General Assemblies, the International Bureau was mandated to produce a report on the international patent system, which would be the basis for discussion at a formal session of the Standing Committee on Patents to be held in 2008. The 2007 Assembly also approved an optional supplementary international search system to enable applicants for patents, copyrights, and trademarks to find prior art at an earlier stage, improving the basis for business decisions.

The 2006 General Assembly called for two more meetings of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) before the 2007 Assembly to refine and finalize a draft Broadcasters Treaty text. If successful, a diplomatic conference was to be convened by the 2007 Assembly. Negotiations, however, were unsuccessful. In June 2007, at the second of two 2007 meetings, the SCCR recommended moving talks on the proposed broadcasters' and cablecasters' treaty back to committee level after rejecting a proposal to elevate the issue to formal treaty negotiations. The move represented a shelving of the issue for the foreseeable future, some nine years after discussions first began.

World Meteorological Organization

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) facilitates free and unrestricted exchange of weather- and climate-related data, products, and services in real or near-real time among members, thus contributing to the protection of life and property from severe weather and enhancing economic interests of members, particularly in the agricultural, aviation, shipping, energy, and defense sectors. WMO also sponsors capacity-building initiatives that improve meteorological data collection and forecasting capacities around the world, thus enhancing the accuracy and timely delivery of weather-related services on a global scale.

The WMO membership includes 182 states and six member territories, all of which maintain their own meteorological services and collect meteorological and hydrological data within their domain. The WMO governing structure includes a quadrennial Congress comprised of member states and territories, which establishes the budget and overall priorities for the organization, and an annual Executive Council, which oversees administration of the budget and addresses technical and policy issues. The WMO Executive

Council is comprised of 37 Permanent Representatives to the WMO, typically heads of weather services, serving in their personal capacities. The Geneva-based Secretariat is led by WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud (France), who was elected for a second four-year term in 2007. The U.S. Permanent Representative to the WMO was re-elected to the Executive Council in 2007 for a four-year term.

In 2007, the United States participated in the quadrennial WMO Congress, as well as a host of technical and expert-level meetings, ensuring that WMO operations are consistent with U.S. interests in meteorology, hydrology, and climate. The United States successfully negotiated a zero-nominal-growth budget for the 2008-2011 financial period and associated program of work that directs resources to the key U.S. priorities of better integrating WMO Members' observing systems in order to enhance data exchange capabilities, improving the prediction of and response to natural disasters, and building meteorological prediction and warning capabilities in the developing world. The WMO Congress approved amendments to the preamble of the WMO Convention that, as a result of diligent work by the United States, more precisely articulate WMO's mandate and avoid infringing on the mandates and expertise of other international organizations. The WMO Congress also agreed that WMO should organize a World Climate Conference in 2009, with a focus on improving seasonal to decadal climate predictions and the communication of these predictions to policy makers. The conference will be funded solely by voluntary contributions.

The U.S. Permanent Representative to the WMO continued to chair the WMO Audit Committee and successfully pushed for increased financial accountability and transparency within WMO. The WMO External Auditors provided a clean audit report for the four-year financial period and complimented the WMO Secretariat's efforts to tighten internal controls.

Throughout 2007, WMO continued to facilitate meteorological data collection and exchange through the World Weather Watch program and the Global Climate Observing System. These programs provide essential data that enable WMO members to provide weather-related forecasts and services of better quality and at lower cost than would be possible if each member acted alone. WMO continued to upgrade the Global Telecommunications Service, which serves as the communications backbone for the exchange of weather data, forecasts, and warnings, including tsunami and hurricane alerts. WMO also supported education, training, and technical cooperation programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of countries to provide weather forecasts for their own populations and to contribute to global data collection and forecasting efforts.

The United States was active in helping to focus WMO's disaster risk reduction work, which provides government authorities and the natural disaster risk management community with access to critical scientific and technical data. The United States chaired the WMO working group responsible for directing WMO's disaster risk reduction program and initiating

Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

a series of pilot projects designed to reduce risk from natural disasters by improving multi-hazard early warning systems.

In addition to supporting WMO programs through our assessed dues, the United States is the largest donor to the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Program (VCP). Through this program, the United States supported the development of improved flash flood prediction and hurricane warning guidance, natural disaster prediction and preparedness initiatives, and training for national weather service staff around the world. This work benefits the United States by improving the quality of weather, water, and climate-related data needed to generate weather forecasts and severe storm warnings and by greatly enhancing U.S. influence within the WMO.

The Geneva-based Secretariat had 144 professional staff in 2007. Out of the 131 professional-level staff subject to geographical distribution, only eight were American citizens (6.1 percent).

Legal Developments

Host Country Relations

The General Assembly established the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in 1971 to address issues concerning the presence of the United Nations and the UN diplomatic community in the United States. The Committee is composed of representatives of the Host Country and 18 other member states. The issues addressed by the Committee include the security of missions, the safety of their personnel, tax questions, visa issues, and privileges and immunities. The UN Headquarters Agreement and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provide the legal framework for the work of the Committee.

In light of the enhanced national security requirements implemented in the United States following the events of September 11, 2001, and the effect of such requirements on representatives to the United Nations arriving and departing from the United States, the U.S. Mission again hosted a special briefing for all missions at the United Nations on August 21, 2007, in preparation for the 62nd General Assembly. The briefing included guidance on diplomatic overflight and landing clearances, expedited port courtesies, customs and immigration, the escort-screening program, and other related matters. Member states were encouraged to take their own initiative to make the processes work smoothly. As in previous years, the number of credible complaints from delegations to the 62nd General Assembly regarding arrivals and departures was small.

Host Country Committee members continued to express concern about implementation of the Parking Program for diplomatic vehicles, which became effective in November 2002. As part of a periodic review of this matter, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the program through use of a detailed questionnaire. The results of the review and Host Country comments were discussed in Committee meetings.

On December 6, the General Assembly adopted without a vote the “Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country” (Resolution 62/72). The resolution requested that the Host Country continue to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise and take all necessary measures to prevent interference with the functioning of the missions; noted that the Committee would continue to review periodically the implementation of the Parking Program; expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Host Country; and noted that the Committee anticipated that the Host Country would continue to facilitate timely issuance of visas to representatives of member states for the purpose of traveling to New York on official UN business.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the UN's principal judicial organ based in The Hague. The Court decides cases submitted to it by states and gives advisory opinions on legal questions at the request of international organizations authorized to request such opinions. The ICJ is composed of 15 judges, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. The UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council vote separately to elect the Court's judges from a list of persons nominated by national groups on the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Judges are elected for nine-year terms, with five judges elected every three years. As of December 31, 2007, the Court was composed as follows: Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom, President), Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan, Vice President), Raymond Ranjeva (Madagascar), Shi Jiuyong (China), Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Gonzalo Parra-Aranguren (Venezuela), Thomas Buergenthal (United States), Hisashi Owada (Japan), Bruno Simma (Germany), Peter Tomka (Slovakia), Ronny Abraham (France), Kenneth Keith (New Zealand), Bernardo Sepulveda Amor (Mexico), Mohammed Bennouna (Morocco), and Leonid Skotnikov (Russian Federation).

In 2007, the ICJ issued four judgments, held three hearings and denied one request for provisional measures. Judgments were rendered in the following cases: Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro*); Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (*Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo*); Territorial and Maritime Dispute Between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea (*Nicaragua v. Honduras*); and Territorial and Maritime Dispute (*Nicaragua v. Colombia*).

The court held three hearings: Territorial and Maritime Dispute Between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea (*Nicaragua v. Honduras*), Territorial and Maritime Dispute (*Nicaragua v. Colombia*), and Sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge (*Malaysia v. Singapore*). Finally, the Court denied a request by Uruguay for the indication of provisional measures in Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (*Argentina v. Uruguay*).

International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is not a UN body, and the United States is not a party to the Rome Statute establishing the ICC. As in previous years, the United States dissociated itself from consensus on the annual resolution in the General Assembly on the ICC, which among other things, called on all states not parties to the Rome Statute to consider ratifying or acceding to it without delay. In its November 20, 2006 statement on the resolution in the General Assembly, the United States emphasized that it respected the rights of states to become parties to the Rome Statute, but asked

in return that other states respect our decision not to do so. The United States also stressed its commitment to ensuring accountability for perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, and urged common efforts to advance these objectives and avoid divisiveness over the ICC.

In 2005, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1593, referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC. Pursuant to that resolution, in 2007, at the Prosecutor's request, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Ahmad Muhammad Harun, the Sudanese Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, and Ali Kushayb, a leader of the Militia/Janjaweed, for crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Prosecutor briefed the UN Security Council on the arrest warrants and urged the Security Council to call upon Sudan to arrest the two individuals and ensure their appearance in Court.

Also in 2007, the ICC issued confidential arrest warrants for Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui in the Situation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.). Katanga, the alleged former Senior Commander of the *Force de Resistance Patriotique en Ituri*, and Ngudjolo Chui, the alleged former leader of the *Front des Nationalistes et Intégrationnistes*, were charged with three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of war crimes. In October 2007, the Congolese authorities surrendered and transferred Katanga to the ICC detention center in The Hague.

Finally, on May 22, 2007, the Prosecutor opened an investigation in the Central African Republic, focusing on violence occurring in the region primarily in 2002 and 2003.

International Law Commission

The UN General Assembly established in 1948 the International Law Commission (ILC) to promote the codification and progressive development of international law. Its 34 members, each of a different nationality, are persons of recognized competence in international law who serve in their individual capacities. The General Assembly elects ILC members for five-year terms and held elections for the then-upcoming five-year term (2007-2011) in 2006. Michael Matheson, a U.S. citizen and former Principal Deputy Legal Adviser (and Acting Legal Adviser) at the Department of State, served the remainder of his term during 2006 but was not elected to serve an additional term. During 2007, the ILC did not have a member from the United States.

The ILC addresses international law topics either referred to it by the General Assembly or that it decides are suitable for codification or progressive development. It usually selects one of its members (designated a Special Rapporteur) to facilitate the work on each topic. After discussion in the ILC, Special Rapporteurs typically prepare draft articles or reports. These are considered and refined in a drafting committee prior to formal adoption by the ILC. The ILC reports annually on its work to the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly.

At its 59th session in 2007, the ILC continued its work on a number of topics. The ILC considered the 11th and 12th reports of the Special Rapporteur on “Reservations to Treaties,” which focused on the formulation and withdrawal of acceptances and objections and on the procedure for acceptances to reservations, referring to the drafting committee 35 draft guidelines on these issues. The Commission also adopted nine draft guidelines dealing with the reservations topic. On the topic of “Shared Natural Resources,” the Commission considered the fourth report by the Special Rapporteur, which addressed the relationship between the work on transboundary aquifers and possible future work on oil and gas. The Commission also established a Working Group on Shared Natural Resources to address the substance and form of draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers and issues relating to oil and gas. In relation to the topic of “Expulsion of Aliens,” the Commission considered the second and third reports of the Special Rapporteur and referred seven draft articles to the drafting committee.

The Commission also considered the third report of the Special Rapporteur on the “Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties.” The Commission referred draft articles proposed by the Special Rapporteur and a Working Group to the drafting committee. On the topic of “Responsibility of International Organizations,” the Commission considered the fifth report of the Special Rapporteur, which focused on the international responsibility of an international organization. The Commission later adopted 15 draft articles, together with commentaries. On the topic of “The Obligation to Extradite or Prosecute,” the Commission considered the second report of the Special Rapporteur, containing one draft article on the scope of application, as well as a proposed plan for further development. The Commission also decided to include two new topics – “Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters” and “Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction” -- in its current program of work and appointed Eduardo Valencia-Ospina (Colombia) as Special Rapporteur for the former topic and Roman Kolodkin (Russian Federation) as Special Rapporteur for the latter topic. The Commission also established a working group on the Most-Favored-Nation Clause under the chairmanship of Donald McRae (Canada) to consider the subject as a possible topic.

During the annual consideration by the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly of the Commission’s report, the U.S. representative made detailed observations on various procedural and substantive aspects of the ILC’s work, including the following:

- As a general matter, it is important that the ILC proceed cautiously in the area of responsibility of international organizations and that it carefully assess the unique considerations relevant to this topic and not simply work to develop articles analogous to those developed for states;

- It is important to bear in mind the unique legal and political issues implicated by the topic of expulsion of aliens as it moves forward;
- It is important to note that there is not a sufficient basis in customary international law or State practice to formulate draft articles that would extend an obligation to extradite or prosecute beyond binding international legal instruments that contain such obligations;
- As a general matter, it is important to approach the topic of the “Effect of Armed Conflicts on Treaties” in a manner that preserves the reasonable continuity of treaty obligations during armed conflict, while taking into account particular military necessities, and also providing practical guidance to states by identifying factors relevant to determining whether a treaty should remain in effect in the event of armed conflict;
- It was appropriate for the ILC to consider the relationship between regional and bilateral arrangements on transboundary aquifers if it intends to move forward with draft articles for a global treaty, despite U.S. reservations as to whether such a treaty would receive sufficient support from states;
- It would not be desirable for the Commission to consider the topic of transboundary oil and gas resources given its political and economic sensitivity; and
- It was appropriate for the ILC to study the topic “Protection of Persons in National Disasters” as it has the potential to produce practical solutions to pressing problems.

The United States expected the ILC to take these observations into account in its work at its 60th Session in 2008.

International Rule of Law

The United Nations continued to pursue numerous activities relating to the rule of law at both the national and international levels.

For example, the General Assembly’s Sixth Committee put “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” on its agenda for the second time in the 62nd session. The Committee approved a resolution, later adopted by the full General Assembly, that among other things asked the Secretary-General to prepare an inventory of the UN’s current activities devoted to the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international level and requested the Secretary-General to submit an additional report to the General Assembly identifying ways for strengthening and coordinating UN activities to promote the rule of law. The report also expressed support for the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, which the Secretary-General decided in 2006 to establish, and requested the Secretary-General to

provide details on the staffing and other requirements of the Unit to the General Assembly.

In 2007, the UN created the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide an integrated and forward-looking approach to UN assistance in rule of law and security entities. OROLSI unifies police, judicial, legal, correctional units, and mine action, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as new security sector-reform functions, primarily in support of UN peacekeeping operations but also globally as regards police and corrections in the context of countries with no peacekeeping missions.

OROLSI is led by an Assistant Secretary-General, who reports to the Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. OROLSI's key task is to provide strategic advice and guidance to missions and to headquarters in the area of rule of law and security institutions. In close collaboration with other members of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, OROLSI units will also concentrate on planning field activities, doctrine development, screening, and deployment of personnel to identify the best qualified people, and identifying and disseminating lessons learned.

Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations

In 1974, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 3349, which established an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee was mandated to consider, among other things, specific proposals from governments that might enhance the UN's ability to achieve its purposes as well as suggestions for the more effective functioning of the United Nations. Since its 30th session, the General Assembly has reconvened the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations (Special Committee) every year, considered its successive reports, and renewed and revised its mandate on an annual basis. Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 50/52 (1995), the Special Committee operates by consensus.

The Special Committee held its annual session February 7-15, 2007. The General Assembly's Sixth Committee adopted a resolution accepting the report of the Committee's work and establishing the mandate and schedule for the Special Committee's 2008 meeting. The General Assembly subsequently adopted the Resolution by consensus on December 6, 2007 (Resolution 62/69).

Operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly Resolution 62/69 mandated the Special Committee to continue consideration of all proposals concerning the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects to strengthen the role of the United Nations. It also required the Committee to continue its consideration on a priority basis of a working document submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction and implementation of sanctions;" to

continue to consider, also on a priority basis and in an appropriate substantive manner and framework, the question of implementing the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter based on all related reports of the Secretary-General and the proposals submitted on the question; to keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between states; to consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in implementing the decisions of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto; and to continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation.

War Crimes and Other Tribunals

Cambodia Khmer Rouge Tribunal

The U.S. Cambodian Genocide Justice Act of April 30, 1994, committed the United States to support efforts to bring to justice members of the Khmer Rouge for crimes against humanity committed in Cambodia between April 17, 1975 and January 7, 1979. Following the recommendation in 1999 by a United Nations-appointed panel to create a Khmer Rouge special tribunal, the United Nations, and the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) began discussions on establishing such a tribunal. After protracted negotiations, UN and Cambodian officials in June 2003 signed an agreement to establish Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), a hybrid tribunal composed of international and Cambodian judges, to try senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge. The ECCC has dual administrations, reporting under one Cambodian Director, Sean Visoth. The UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (UNAKRT) was represented by Michelle Lee (China), appointed Deputy Director of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (KRT) in October 2005.

The KRT consists of three chambers: Pre-Trial, Trial, and a Supreme Court. The Pre-Trial Chamber and the Trial Chamber have five judges each (three Cambodian and two international) and the Supreme Court Chamber has seven judges (four Cambodian and three international). In addition, there are two prosecutors (one from each group) and two investigating judges (likewise). The names of these officials and their deputies were announced on May 7, 2006, and include two Americans: Paul Coffey as a reserve co-prosecutor, and Judge Martin Karopkin as a reserve judge in the Supreme Court Chamber. The Cambodian law implementing the 2003 UN-Cambodia Agreement to establish the KRT provides that life imprisonment shall be the maximum sentence for anyone convicted by the KRT.

Donors were concerned by the initial cost estimate of almost \$80 million for the KRT; however, negotiations finally resulted in a budget of \$56.3 million (\$43 million to support the UNAKRT budget and \$13.3 million

to support the Cambodian-side operations of the court). In January 2005, the UN issued a call for voluntary contributions. As of the end of 2007, Japan was the largest donor, with France, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia, The Netherlands, Canada, and the European Union also contributing substantially. The court registered about \$39.2 million in donations to UNAKRT, with pledges of \$4.8 million outstanding and shortfalls in pledges of \$2 million at the end of 2007. Cambodia contributed \$1.5 million to the tribunal budget, and international donors contributed another \$7.1 million to the Cambodian national component, with shortfalls in pledges amounting to \$4.7 million. Cambodia has provided approximately \$5 million as in-kind contributions to the Extraordinary Chambers. On May 1, 2006, the Secretary-General announced that enough of the required funding had been received to begin organizing the tribunal.

As part of the funding process, the UN identified \$6.9 million in three dormant Cambodian trust funds and asked if donors would allow this money to be transferred to the Cambodian national component of the KRT; of this, approximately \$1 million was U.S.-donated. The United States determined that the funds were no longer available for further expenditure and thus could not be used in support of the Tribunal. This decision was communicated to the Office of the Controller of the United Nations, which agreed to arrange with the Department of the Treasury to return the sum in question for redeposit in the U.S. Treasury. Outstanding questions related to how this redeposit should occur have delayed the transfer and these monies remain in a UN account.

The KRT completed and issued its Internal Rules in June 2007. Five former Khmer Rouge leaders (Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea, Ieng Thirith and Kaing Guek Eav ("Comrade Duch")) were named in a sealed indictment handed by the KRT in 2007. All are in pre-trial detention in the ECCC detention center awaiting trials, and Duch's trial is likely to begin in September, 2008.

U.S. Special Ambassador for War Crimes Clint Williamson visited KRT facilities in Phnom Penh in December 2007 to assess progress.

Congressional restrictions in 2004, 2005, and 2006 prohibited assistance to the central government of Cambodia and hence blocked a direct U.S. financial contribution to the KRT. The Senate Report (109-96) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (FOAA) directed that no funds be made available to the [Khmer Rouge Tribunal] unless the Secretary of State reported to the Committee that the tribunal was capable of delivering justice that meets internationally recognized standards of justice for crimes against humanity and genocide in an impartial and credible manner. The restriction on assistance was removed in FY 2007. The Administration is considering whether to contribute to the KRT in light of concerns that have been raised about possible corruption. While the 2006 Senate report language is not binding and would not apply to FY 2008 funds, Congressional staff have made clear their

continuing interest that the U.S. Government conclude that the Tribunal meet international standards before providing direct funding to the KRT.

Over the last decade the United States has contributed over \$17 million to the Documentation Center of Cambodia to support research and documentation of the crimes of the Khmer Rouge. This documentation already is helping the KRT in its work.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

The UN Security Council established the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in November 1994 pursuant to Resolution 955 (1994). The Tribunal prosecutes individuals accused of committing genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda from January 1 through December 31, 1994. Under the Tribunal's Completion Strategy, as endorsed by the Security Council in Resolution 1503 (2003), the ICTR seeks to complete all trials by the end of 2008 and all of its work, including appeals, by the end of 2010. In compliance with Security Council Resolution 1503, the United States, the Tribunal, and various stakeholders of the justice sector in Rwanda have continued to work to strengthen the capacity of the Rwandan judicial system, in part so that Rwanda can receive/prosecute cases transferred to it from the ICTR. New arrests and the ICTR's preliminary rulings against transferring cases to Rwanda have pushed the Tribunal's target date for trial completion into 2009.

In August 2007, the ICTR issued one new indictment to prosecute a witness for giving false testimony. It was the first such case in the history of both the ICTR (and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia) and was important to protect the integrity of the judicial process. To date, the ICTR has completed the trials for 35 defendants, five of which resulted in acquittals. Two convictions are currently being appealed. There are 29 defendants currently on trial and seven defendants in pretrial detention in Arusha. There are 13 fugitives at large.

The significant results of the Tribunal throughout 2007 are indisputably due to the coordinated efforts of all Tribunal organs and staff. The Tribunal has been working to persuade the Security Council and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to make special provisions to assist in retaining its staff. The UNGA passed by consensus Resolution 62/227, which decided to consider International Civil Service Commission recommendations to use existing benefits and other non-monetary incentives before special provisions were contemplated to assist in retaining staff. On September 14, 2007, the Security Council passed Resolution 1774, reappointing Mr. Hassan Bubacar Jallow as Prosecutor of the ICTR for a four-year term.

The United States continued to monitor the Tribunal closely to ensure adherence to practices that improve efficiency and effectiveness. In 2007, the United States was assessed \$34 million for the ICTR, approximately 24 percent of the total costs.

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was established in May 1993 pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 808 to investigate and try individuals accused of committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The apprehension and prosecution at the ICTY of persons indicted for war crimes, especially senior Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, has long been a critical priority for the United States and the Security Council. The United States strongly urges all entities and states, particularly the Republic of Serbia, to cooperate by apprehending and transferring the remaining three fugitive indictees (Radovan Karadzic, Radko Mladic, and Goran Hadzic) to the Tribunal and freezing the assets and restricting the travel of those who support the fugitive indictees. The United States, along with the European Union, has made clear to authorities in the region that meeting their obligations to the ICTY is a prerequisite for full integration into the Euro-Atlantic family.

The United States continued to support domestic courts in the region in their efforts to adjudicate low- and mid-level war crimes cases and supported the processing of cases that had been transferred from the ICTY to domestic courts. The United States provided direct assistance to domestic judicial mechanisms and promoted regional cooperation among judicial professionals.

The ICTY issued eight final judgments in 2007 and referred to regional courts eight cases with multiple defendants, as well as 13 defendants accused in individual cases. At the end of 2007, the ICTY was conducting eight simultaneous trials. Of those who appeared before the Tribunal, 55 were convicted and nine acquitted.

Special Court for Sierra Leone

In 2007, the United States continued to be a strong supporter of the Special Court, as it had been since the Special Court's inception. The United States played an instrumental role in drafting and negotiating UN Security Council Resolution 1315 (2000), which called on the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone to create an independent special court to prosecute persons who bore the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in Sierra Leone since November 30, 1996. The successful completion of the Court's work remains a top U.S. priority and a key part of the reconciliation process in war-torn West Africa.

The United States contributed \$13 million in 2007 to support the work of the Special Court; it has contributed approximately \$48 million since the Court's creation in 2002 and intends to make additional contributions to ensure that the Court completes its important work. More than 40 other States

also have provided funds to support the Court, which operates on voluntary funding. The United States has welcomed this broad base of past support, but continues to appeal to all governments to ensure, through additional contributions, that justice will be served, that impunity will not be tolerated, and that peace and stability can be sustained in Sierra Leone and in the region.

On July 20, 2007, the Special Court for Sierra Leone announced the appointments of a new Registrar and Deputy Registrar. The Court's new Registrar, Herman von Hebel (The Netherlands), served as Deputy Registrar of the Court from July 2006 until March 2007, when he was named Acting Registrar. Succeeding Mr. von Hebel as Deputy Registrar was Binta Mansaray (Sierra Leone). Ms. Mansaray has served for the past four years as the Special Court's Outreach Coordinator. She is the first Sierra Leonean to hold the post of Deputy Registrar.

The United States joined the Security Council in a June 28 Presidential Statement that congratulated the Special Court on handing down its first trial judgment on June 21, 2007, in the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, acknowledged the Special Court's progress towards achieving its completion strategy, and underlined the expectation that all organs of the Special Court would do their utmost to finish the work of the Court in accordance with the completion strategy. The Special Court originally intended to complete its work in 2005, but is now aiming at a 2010 completion date.

The United States strongly supported the commencement of the trial of Charles Taylor on June 4, 2007, in The Hague in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1688 (2006).

Reform of the UN System

Management Reform and Mandate Review

In 2007, the United Nations, supported actively by the United States and other member states, focused much attention on improving its management practices, including by following up on the management reform agenda from the September 2005 UN World Summit. Delegations worked on a broad range of initiatives to modernize the UN Secretariat; strengthen oversight, ethics and accountability systems; and review UN program mandates. In addition, the United States launched a system-wide United Nations Transparency and Accountability Initiative (UNTAI).

Administration of Justice

General Assembly Resolution 59/283 called for the Secretary-General to form a panel of external and independent experts to consider redesigning the system of administration of justice for its 30,000 staff members. In July 2006, this expert body, now known as the Redesign Panel, published its report (A/61/205) containing over 30 recommendations intended to improve the UN's internal justice system, which it found to be outmoded, dysfunctional, ineffective, and lacking independence. The Panel's recommendations called for a decentralized, professional, well resourced, timely, and independent internal justice system, which the authors believed would reduce conflicts within the UN through informal dispute resolution and the expedited resolution of cases.

The current system of redress for UN employees' grievances was instituted 50 years ago and has evolved into a system that is neither effective nor efficient. In the fall session of the 62nd General Assembly, the Fifth Committee considered numerous strategies for effecting meaningful reform and ultimately reached consensus on the initial steps necessary to replace the existing system. The General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/228 by consensus based on the proposal put forward by the Fifth Committee.

Resolution 62/228 agreed to create a new formal system for adjudicating grievances that would consist of two tiers, an UN Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and an UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT). This new system would replace the current single United Nations Administrative Tribunal. There was substantial but not universal agreement with the U.S. proposal that the current system should clear the backlog of existing cases as opposed to transferring them to the new system. The issue of transitional arrangements will be taken up again and finalized during the latter part of 2008.

Ethical Conduct and Integrity

On January 3, 2006, the UN Ethics Office began operations with a very small staff that included an American serving as interim director. The Office was not fully staffed until May 2007 when Robert F. Benson (Canada) assumed his duties as director. The 2007 annual report for the Ethics Office (A/61/274) covered the period from August 1, 2006, to July 31, 2007. It indicated that 2,584 staff participated in the financial disclosure program for the 2006 filing period. The Office also received 52 separate complaints of retaliation taken against whistleblowers (UN whistleblower protections are contained in ST/SGB/2005/21). Of these, 16 claims warranted further review. The Office found that a *prima facie* case of retaliation had been established in two cases and referred them to the UN Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for further investigation. A *prima facie* case could not be established in 10 instances, and four cases remain under review by the Office.

The 2007 annual report proposed extending the jurisdiction of the Office to encompass all UN agencies under the authority of the Secretary-General. The issue of jurisdiction became apparent in June 2007 when the Office received a complaint from a former UN Development Program (UNDP) employee seeking protection from retaliation for reporting on problems at UNDP's offices in North Korea. UNDP declined to cooperate with the investigation by the UN Ethics Office and instead announced that it would conduct its own review of the case. In an August 17, 2007, memorandum to the UNDP Administrator, the UN Ethics Director wrote:

“When I undertook my review of this case, it was done within the parameters of ST/SGB/2005/21. Indeed, the Ethics Office received independent and corroborative information in relation to whether a *prima facie* case of retaliation had been established. While it is now understood that the case will not proceed any further within the parameters of ST/SBG/2005/21, I must advise that had the jurisdiction of the protection from retaliation bulletin applied, the information received by the Ethics Office would have supported a determination that a *prima facie* case [of retaliation] had been established in this case.”

Once the details of this case became known, the United States immediately called upon UNDP to cooperate with the Ethics Office's inquiries and urged the Secretary-General to instruct UNDP to accept the jurisdiction of the UN Ethics Office. In a statement to the UNDP Executive Board on September 10, 2007, Ambassador Mark D. Wallace emphasized, “Transparency is the foundation of accountability and any such accountability framework must also include recognition by UNDP of the jurisdiction of the UN Ethics office for all UNDP personnel.”

On December 3, 2007, the UN Ethics Director held a press conference to announce the Secretary-General's decision to establish an organization-wide ethics framework for the UN Secretariat and UN funds and programs (ST/SGB/2007/11). The ethics framework requires all UN funds

and programs to establish independent ethics offices. At the time, UNDP, the World Food Program, United Nations Children's Fund, and United Nations Population Fund had each already designated ethics officers. The Secretary-General also established a UN Ethics Committee, chaired by the director of the UN Ethics Office, to unify ethical standards and provide a mechanism for staff to appeal ethics rulings and decisions by their organization. The ethics framework does not apply to the UN specialized agencies. Nevertheless, some agencies have already decided to appoint independent ethics officers in response to the creation of the UN Ethics Office in 2006. The United States continues to encourage all UN entities to establish independent ethics functions.

Independent Audit Advisory Committee

At the 2005 UN World Summit, heads of state and government called upon the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals for the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee (paragraph 165(c) of General Assembly Resolution 60/1). The Secretary-General submitted provisional terms of reference for the establishment of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) in December 2005 (A/60/568, Annex III). In response to the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Secretary-General submitted revised terms of reference in June 2006 (A/60/846/Add.7) and again in March 2007 (A/61/812). Throughout this time, the United States actively engaged other delegations and the Secretariat to ensure that the mandate and composition of the IAAC would strengthen accountability and governance. The General Assembly used the Secretary-General's March 2007 proposal as the basis for drafting the terms of reference. On June 29, 2007, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 61/275 by consensus, which established the IAAC as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly to provide expert advice on UN oversight functions, risk management, internal controls, and financial practices. The General Assembly will review the terms of reference in the fall of 2010.

On November 15, 2007, the General Assembly appointed the first members of the IAAC (General Assembly decision 62/413). Appointments were made on the basis of extensive senior-level expertise in audit, accounting, finance, and/or oversight, with due consideration given to geographic distribution. Vadim Vadimovich Dubinkin (Russian Federation), Vijayendra Nath Kaul (India), Adrian Patrick Strachan (Jamaica), and John F.S. Muwanga, (Uganda) were appointed by acclamation. The seat for the Western European and Other States was selected by secret ballot, which resulted in the appointment of David M. Walker, Comptroller-General of the United States. Out of 191 ballots cast, Walker received 99 votes.

The terms of reference established a three-year term of office, renewable once. By drawing lots, two of the initial appointments (Walker and Muwanga) were for four years to stagger the terms of office. All terms begin on January 1, 2008.

Mandate Review

In early 2007, action on mandate review stalled as a result of the vacancy of the G-77 co-chair of the informal plenary. During this period of inaction, the United States discussed proposals to reenergize mandate review with other member states. However, the U.S. suggestions were met with little support from other member states. In early April, the President of the 61st General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa (Bahrain), appointed Ambassador Mbuende of Namibia to join Ambassador Cooney of Ireland as co-chair. Phase I of mandate review, which covered all mandates five years old or older and not renewed that originated from the General Assembly, was completed in November 2006. In late April, the Mandate Review Working Group began Phase II, the cluster-level review of mandates older than five years that had been renewed. At the urging of the Non-aligned Movement and the G-77, the Working Group decided to begin with the cluster of mandates on drug control, crime prevention, and combating international terrorism. Three meetings were held on this cluster but no mandates were formally reviewed. On September 17, 2007, the General Assembly adopted an oral decision to continue consultations on mandate review into its 62nd session.

On October 17, the President of the 62nd General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim (Macedonia), announced that New Zealand would replace Ireland and would join Namibia in co-chairing the mandate review process during the 62nd session of the General Assembly. He also circulated a set of proposed parameters to advance the mandate review process. The parameters stated that, *inter alia*: politically sensitive mandates would be treated with caution; resources freed up from a review of the development mandates would be reinvested into other development activities; non-development savings would be optimally utilized, including for development activities; and the Secretariat would continue to play a crucial role in mandate review and its support would be essential. U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Khalilzad accepted the parameters and underscored the vital role of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in supporting mandate review. On November 6, 2007, General Assembly President Kerim sent a letter to all member states confirming their acceptance of the parameters.

Office of Internal Oversight Services

General Assembly Resolution 48/218B stated that the purpose of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) was to “assist the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization” through monitoring, internal audit, inspection, evaluation, and investigation. OIOS is based in New York, has offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi, and has auditors and investigators resident in peacekeeping missions. In July 2005, Inga-Britt Ahlenius (Sweden) was appointed by the Secretary-General, following consultation with the General Assembly, to a five-year non-renewable appointment as the Under Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

OIOS reports to the General Assembly are available on its website. Reports to program managers are made available to member states upon request, and a list of these reports can be found in the annual report and on the OIOS website.

In 2007, the Fifth Committee considered several OIOS reports including the annual report for the year ending June 30, 2007. Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, OIOS produced a total of 268 reports containing 1,792 separate recommendations aimed at improving the functioning of the UN. These reports identified \$27.8 million in potential cost savings. Actual cost savings and recoveries during the reporting period were \$12.8 million.

The Fifth Committee also considered reports by the Procurement Task Force (PTF). OIOS created the PTF in January 2006 to look into allegations of fraud and malfeasance in the procurement service revealed by the investigation of the Oil-for-Food program. By June 30, 2007, the PTF had completed 63 separate investigations and uncovered 10 different schemes to defraud the UN, tainting \$610 million in procurement contracts and resulting in the misappropriation of more than \$25 million. As a result of these investigations, six UN staff were charged with misconduct. The Secretary-General recommended nearly \$4.9 million in funding to permit the PTF's 16 investigators to continue their work on the 287 open cases that remained. (A/62/520). Absent approval by the General Assembly, the PTF's mandate was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2007.

During negotiations in the Fifth Committee, members of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China called for limiting the PTF's mandate to six months. OIOS objected because the PTF would be unable to complete its open investigations by June 30, 2008, and would have difficulty retaining investigators if funding for its activities was limited to six months. After much deliberation, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/234 by consensus, which extended the PTF mandate through December 31, 2008. Resolution 62/234 also noted the OIOS annual reports for 2006 and 2007.

Finally, the United States continued to press for strengthening OIOS' operational independence. The current funding structure for OIOS limits its ability to determine where resources will be deployed, which can restrict the scope of its internal audit, investigation, monitoring, evaluation, and inspection functions, particularly in regard to UN funds and programs. In a statement to the Fifth Committee in October 2007, the U.S. delegate stressed that the United States believed it imperative that the operational independence of OIOS be guaranteed and that it had sufficient resources to perform its core functions "free from any real or perceived influence by the very bodies or officials it was intended to oversee." The General Assembly decided not to take action to strengthen OIOS' operational independence until it could take into account the Secretary-General's reports on internal controls, risk management, and accountability. These had been requested by General Assembly Resolution 61/245 "no later than by the end of its sixty-first

session,” which ended on September 17, 2007. None of the reports were finished as of December 31, 2007.

Procurement

General Assembly Resolution 61/246 affirmed that procurement reform was an ongoing process that should focus on ensuring the efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness of United Nations procurement as well as strengthening internal controls, greater accountability to member states and full implementation of General Assembly resolutions on procurement reform.

During 2007, the UN continued to make improvements to its procurement practices, implementing about half of the measures recommended in the Secretary-General’s report of October 2006 (A/60/846/Add.5/Corr.1). The Secretary-General’s comprehensive report on UN procurement activities of November 2007 (A/62/525) recorded significant improvements during the previous year in staff training, vendor registration, and contracting opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The November 2007 report indicated that the percentage of procurements from developing countries and countries with economies in transition reached 53 percent in 2006, compared to an average of 45 percent over the previous four years. U.S. participation in UN contracting increased in terms of dollar value, but the percentage of contracts awarded to U.S. vendors declined.

Since the Secretary-General’s comprehensive report was issued late in 2007, the General Assembly did not have time to consider a resolution on procurement reform during its autumn 2007 session and deferred substantive discussion until spring 2008. The United States had hoped to see implementation of an independent bid protest system designed to promote transparency and fairness in the awarding of contracts. However, progress on this initiative was limited to a UN concept paper, with implementation of a pilot program scheduled to begin in 2008.

Future reports by the Secretary-General are expected to include proposals for improving the management and organizational structure of the UN procurement service, as well as clarifying the relationship between headquarters and peacekeeping procurement. In addition, the United States has been working with other member states and the UN Secretariat to improve the vendor registration process so that violators of the UN supplier code of conduct are disqualified from bidding.

Staff Contract Reform and Harmonization of Conditions of Service

During its 2007 fall session, the General Assembly had before it the Secretary-General’s proposals on contract reform and harmonization of conditions of services for UN staff members in the field. The proposals recommended that the General Assembly establish three types of contracts (continuing, fixed, and temporary) and increase the benefits available to field staff to equal the full benefits received at headquarters in New York. These

proposals aimed to address problems of recruitment, retention, and low morale in the field. Owing to the lateness of the report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on this item and the tight Fifth Committee schedule, the discussion of this item was deferred to the March 2008 session.

UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative

In 2007, the United States launched a United Nations Transparency and Accountability Initiative (UNTAI) to address systemic weaknesses in the management of UN resources and activities. UNTAI drew upon reforms already adopted for the UN Secretariat and sought to apply them to the funds, programs and specialized agencies so that all UN entities would be held to the same standards. Specifically, UNTAI's goals were and are:

- Operational independence of the internal oversight function;
- Disclosure of internal audit and oversight reports to the member states on request;
- Public access to relevant information related to the organization's operations;
- Independent ethics function;
- "Whistleblower" protections against retaliation for reporting misconduct and/or cooperating with the internal oversight function;
- Financial disclosure program;
- Full implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards; and
- Transparent administrative support costs for voluntarily-funded projects.

Intensive diplomacy in fall 2007 resulted in an endorsement by the heads of UN agencies of the principle of disclosing internal audit reports to member states (CEB/2007/2). Although this was a needed first step, few agencies have taken action to put this principle into practice.

Security Council Reform

Throughout 2007, the United States reiterated its openness to consider proposals for a modest expansion of the UN Security Council that would contribute to its strength and effectiveness. During his address to the opening of the 62nd UN General Assembly in New York on September 17, President Bush noted that some had called for reform to the structure of the Security Council, including an expansion of its membership. The President stated that the United States was open to the prospect, adding that "We believe that Japan is well qualified for permanent membership on the Security Council, and that other nations should be considered as well." He also stated that reform of the Council must come in the context of broader reform of the United Nations.

The UN General Assembly's Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council, chaired by the President of the General Assembly, held debates on February 8, May 3, July 19, and December 14, 2007. The UN General Assembly held an open debate on UN Security Council reform on November 12, 2007. All of these debates demonstrated continued widespread interest among UN members in increasing the size of the Security Council, although significant differences remained regarding the number of new members, whether the new members should be non-permanent or permanent, and whether any new permanent members should be extended the right of the veto. Differences among member states also emerged over the issue of an "interim solution" to UN Security Council reform, whereby additional members could be elected for longer terms than the current two years for non-permanent members, with a review mechanism at the end of the period to consider their possible permanent membership.

At the February 8 meeting of the OEWG, President of the 61st UN General Assembly Sheikha Haya Al Khalifa (Bahrain) appointed five "facilitators" among the Permanent Representatives of member states to address five issues related to UN Security Council reform: categories of membership, the question of the veto, the question of regional representation, the size of an enlarged Security Council, and the working methods of the Security Council. The facilitators' April 19 report discussed the fundamental differences of opinion on each of these issues and raised the possibility of an interim solution to Security Council reform as a way towards a future, more comprehensive Security Council reform.

Reactions to the report, discussed during the OEWG debate on May 3, varied widely, with members of the Group of Four (India, Brazil, Japan, and Germany) expressing doubts regarding an interim solution and urging the President of the General Assembly (PGA) to identify specific options for the OEWG to consider. Members of the United for Consensus Group (Mexico, Pakistan, Italy, and Canada, among others), who have supported an increase in the size of the Security Council but have long opposed the addition of new permanent members, expressed support for an interim solution. The discussion during the OEWG's July 19 debate continued to reflect these fundamental differences of opinion.

Srgjan Kerim (Macedonia), President of the 62nd UN General Assembly, chaired the December 14 meeting of the OEWG. Aiming to break the stalemate that had characterized the OEWG's recent debates, Kerim identified seven pillars to guide further OEWG discussion:

- Security Council reform must go hand in hand with the transformation of the wider UN system;
- The OEWG should be guided through a joint venture of the President of the UN General Assembly and the member states;

Reform of the UN System

- The OEWG should identify issues ready for negotiation that could be moved to intergovernmental negotiations;
- The OEWG should carry out consultations on the modalities for intergovernmental negotiations;
- Further steps should allow the members to reach agreement on all aspects of UN Security Council reform;
- UN Security Council reform should accommodate the interests and concerns of all sides; and
- Members should refrain from steps that would undermine current momentum and consensus.

President Kerim also announced the appointment of a Task Force, which replaced the facilitators and was comprised of the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh, Portugal, and Chile, to consult further with members to identify points of agreement on which to base OEWG discussion. The United States expressed support for the seven pillars and the Task Force.

Administration and Budget

Audit Reports

The Board of Auditors, based in New York, serves as the external auditor for the accounts of the United Nations, its funds and programs, and the International War Crimes Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Members are elected to serve six-year, non-renewable terms. In 2007, the Board was composed of the Auditors-General (or national equivalent) of France, the Philippines, and South Africa. Additional information on the Board and its mandate is available online at: www.un.org/auditors/board/.

Because the Board of Auditors issues most of its reports in even-numbered years (in line with the financial periods of most of the organizations under its oversight which are biennial ending in odd-numbered years), the Fifth Committee only had three audit reports to consider in the fall of 2007. The Fifth Committee took up the Board's reports on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/62/5/Add.5), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) (A/61/5/Add.10), and the implementation of recommendations from the biennium 2004-2005 (A/62/120). The Fifth Committee also reviewed the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the Board's audits (A/62/355 and A/61/350/Add.1) and the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Board's recommendations for UNOPS (A/61/214/Add.2).

The U.S. delegate commended the Board for its helpful assessment of the financial statements and overview of key financial and management issues faced by UN organizations. The U.S. delegate also expressed concern about several longstanding recommendations that had not been fully implemented. In this regard, the U.S. delegate stressed the importance of improving the rate of implementation of the Board's recommendations to achieve greater efficiencies in the work of the entities audited and to promote the effective use of member state resources.

On December 22, 2007, the General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 62/223, which endorsed the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the ACABQ. The General Assembly called on the Secretary-General and the executive heads of UN funds and programs to hold program managers accountable for the timely implementation of recommendations. Resolution 62/223 also called for the Secretary-General to provide explanations for delays in implementing the Board's recommendations.

Committee for Program and Coordination

The Committee for Program and Coordination (CPC) is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the

General Assembly for planning, programming, and coordination. It is charged with reviewing and recommending priorities among UN programs, guiding the Secretariat on translating legislation into programs, developing evaluation procedures, and making recommendations on where duplication could be avoided. The CPC is comprised of 34 members elected by the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographic distribution among regions. CPC members serve for a period of three years and may serve multiple successive terms. The United States, a member of the CPC from 1974 to 2006, decided not to seek re-election to the CPC for the 2007-2009 term due to the Committee's consistently ineffective, inefficient operation and continued lack of progress on reforming its working methods.

The CPC held its 47th session from June 11 to July 3, 2007, in New York. The United States participated during the session as an observer. The session primarily focused on reviewing evaluation and coordination reports, including a report by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services on Political Affairs, the report of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and a report on UN system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. During the session, the CPC accomplished little of substantive value. Further, minimal progress was made to improve the Committee's working methods, as requested in past General Assembly resolutions. The only modest accomplishment CPC made was to decide to devote one or two meetings of its future sessions to a discussion by high level participants on coordination-related issues.

During the Fifth Committee's consideration of the agenda item on Program Planning, under which the 2007 CPC report was discussed, the United States pressed other member states to reiterate the CPC's responsibility to fulfill its primary function of coordinating the work of the UN, including by determining which UN activities were obsolete, of marginal usefulness, or ineffective, and to recommend, as appropriate, their curtailment or termination (as mandated in its terms of reference and GA Resolution 31/93) and to take steps to strengthen implementation of this function. The United States' efforts were met with resistance. During informal negotiations, the G-77 essentially refused to engage in a meaningful dialogue on any of the U.S.-proposed resolution amendments. As a result of the absence of meaningful substantive recommendations in the 2007 CPC report and the lack of effective progress to improve the CPC's working methods, the United States disassociated from consensus on the Program Planning resolution.

International Civil Service Commission

The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), a 15-member body of recognized experts, is responsible for making recommendations on salaries, allowances, benefits, and other conditions of service for employees of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. In 2007, Lucretia Myers, who has been the U.S. member to the Commission for the last 15 years, served the third year of her current four-year term.

In 2007, the Commission met in New York and Geneva for its 64th and 65th sessions, respectively. The Commissioners focused on a variety of issues during these sessions, including: monitoring the broadbanding/pay-for-performance pilot program, incentives to retain staff at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and language incentives. The Commission made recommendations on the following limited areas: retention pay for the ICTR and ICTY; increasing the base/floor salary scale in 2007 for professional staff; and modernizing and simplifying the language incentive allowance.

With respect to the Tribunals, the Commission recognized their exceptional mission but advised against granting financial retention incentives to all staff on an *ad hoc* or exceptional basis. In the Commission's opinion, it would set a precedent for the common system that should be avoided. Several peacekeeping operations, e.g., United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, had sought approval to use various staff retention measures that went beyond the existing benefits in the common system. In the future, as other organizations face the need to phase out operations, an approach that targets key skill sets may be appropriate if staff retention becomes problematic.

The Commission's observations on why the proposed retention system was not tenable included:

- Key staff necessary for an orderly phase out had not been adequately identified.
- There was no agreement that the required knowledge for both Professional and General Service categories of staff could be gained only through experience working in the Tribunals.
- With an average of five years of service, there was already a powerful incentive for both categories of staff to remain as long as possible in order to vest and build up years in the pension system.
- Vacancy rates were relatively low compared, for example, to the 30 percent vacancy rates in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- The HR Network and Staff Associations had expressed doubts that recruitment, relocation, and retention bonuses should be used as they required discretion rather than being paid across the board.

The Commission reviewed practices with regard to the promotion of multilingualism. It noted that 2008 had been designated the "Year of Languages" by the UN. It also noted that the General Assembly had, over the years, repeatedly allowed flexibility with regard to the specific tools governing bodies of UN organizations may use to best serve their language skill requirements. The organizations and staff supported the existing diversity of schemes used. The Commission recommended to the General Assembly that the long-standing flexibility to promote multilingualism should be maintained

because it had been found effective in meeting the organizations' needs, and that organizations should be encouraged, within their budget considerations, to continue efforts to promote the use of additional foreign languages to further operational needs.

The Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee of the General Assembly discussed the 2007 report of the ICSC during the 62nd General Assembly. Based on the discussions in the Fifth Committee, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/227 "United Nations Common System: Report of the International Civil Service Commission" on December 22, 2007. This resolution, in addition to covering retention and language incentives as previously mentioned, acted on the following issues:

- Decided that it was not appropriate at this time to consider financial retention incentives at the International Criminal Tribunals;
- Reaffirmed the use of a range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of professional staff in New York and staff in comparable positions in the comparator civil service (United States), on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the midpoint of 115 over a period of time;
- Approved 1.97 percent increase in the UN common system's base/floor salary scale to be effective January 1, 2008, with this increase offset by the consolidation of post adjustment.

Joint Inspection Unit

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), based in Geneva, Switzerland, is an external oversight body for the entire UN system. The JIU produces reports, notes, and confidential letters detailing its findings and recommendations. It is accountable to member states through the UN General Assembly and through the governing bodies of UN specialized agencies. The JIU is funded from the UN regular budget and the budgets of UN specialized agencies.

The JIU is comprised of 11 inspectors, as well as research and support personnel. According to the JIU statute, the inspectors should be chosen "from among members of national supervision or inspection bodies, or from among persons of a similar competence on the basis of their special experience in national or international administrative and financial matters, including management questions." The inspectors are elected by the General Assembly and limited to serve two five-year terms. In 2007, M. Deborah Wynes (United States) was the Unit's Chairperson and Juan Luis Larrabure (Peru) was the Vice Chairperson.

The JIU produced 12 reports, two notes, and one management letter in 2007, as well as a separate document entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2006 and Program of Work for 2007" (A/61/34). The following reports and information on the JIU are available at www.unjiu.org/.

- Voluntary contributions in United Nations system organizations: impact on program delivery and resource mobilization strategies (JIU/REP/2007/1)
- United Nations system staff medical coverage (JIU/REP/2007/2)
- Review of the Working Capital Fund in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (JIU/REP/2007/3)
- Age structure of human resources in the organizations of the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2007/4)
- Review of management and administration at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (JIU/REP/2007/5)
- Knowledge management in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2007/6)
- Review of management and administration in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (JIU/REP/2007/7)
- Funding and staffing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (JIU/REP/2007/8)
- Review of the national competitive recruitment examination as a recruitment tool (JIU/REP/2007/9)
- Liaison offices in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2007/10)
- Review of management and administration in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (JIU/REP/2007/11)
- Review of the progress made by the United Nations system organizations in achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, Target 7, to combat HIV/AIDS (JIU/REP/2007/12)
- Review of management and administration of the United Nations Office at Geneva (JIU/NOTE/2007/1)
- Review of selected telecommunication issues and use of Voice Over Internet Protocol technologies in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/NOTE/2007/2)
- Headquarters agreements and other host country agreements: compliance issues (JIU/ML/2007/1)

In March 2007, the General Assembly considered the JIU's program of work for 2007. This was a significant step forward for JIU's annual planning process. In the past, the JIU provided the General Assembly with its program of work in the fall, by which time the Unit had nearly completed its work for the year. On April 2, 2007, at the urging of the U.S. delegate, the General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 61/260, which called for aligning the JIU's annual reporting and planning processes. In March 2008, the Assembly will consider the 2007 annual report together with the 2008 program of work.

In the fall of 2007, the General Assembly considered the JIU's annual report for 2006. The U.S. delegate welcomed the JIU's efforts to report on the impact and acceptance rate of its recommendations and continued to push for further reforms of the JIU, such as concentrating its work primarily upon system-wide matters, improving the implementation rate of JIU

recommendations by UN agencies, and showing where savings had resulted from the full implementation of JIU recommendations. On December 22, 2007, the General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 61/238, which called for full and timely implementation of JIU recommendations by UN organizations, continued coordination with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and an increased focus by the JIU on issues of system-wide interest, value, and relevance.

Scale of Assessments

At its 62nd session, the UN General Assembly considered the requests of seven UN members for temporary exemption from the loss-of-vote provision of Article 19 of the UN Charter. Article 19 prescribes that a UN member that is in arrears to the organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount due from it for the preceding two years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.

The General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 62/1, which granted temporary exemption from loss of voting rights in accordance with Article 19 of the UN Charter to the following seven UN member states: Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, and Tajikistan. The United States joined consensus in the adoption of Resolution 62/1.

The General Assembly deferred until the 63rd session to be held in late 2008 consideration of the methodology to be used in preparation of the scale of assessments for 2010-2012 and did not provide any additional guidance to the Committee on contributions in this regard. The UN scale of assessments is adopted by the UN General Assembly for a three-year period. The next scale will be decided in 2009.

UN Budget

During 2007, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) took several actions relating to the UN program budget for the biennium 2008-09. The adoption of the \$4.2 billion biennium budget (A/RES/62/236 and A/RES/62/237) in December 2007 -- against U.S. opposition -- was the most important action taken during the year. The adopted budget for the 2008-2009 biennium is slightly below the final budget for the previous biennium. In approving the biennium budget for 2008-2009, the General Assembly deferred to the resumed session of 2008 a number of proposals that, if approved, could increase the budget substantially. The so-called "add-ons" include reform initiatives and restructuring proposals plus further funding for Special Political Missions (SPMs), strengthening of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and revised estimates to resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council that could increase the budget by an additional \$1 billion. U.S. Ambassador for UN Management and Reform Mark Wallace, in voting

against the budget resolution, cited concerns with the “piecemeal nature of the budget” and on the potential growth of the final 2008-2009 biennium budget. In addition, the final budget included funding for the “Durban II conference” which Ambassador Wallace called a noxious event and a “disgrace in the international community.” (The Durban II conference is a follow-up to the first conference on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination held in Durban, South Africa in 2001. The United States withdrew from the 2001 Conference due to the pervasive anti-Semitism that characterized the conference itself, as well as the inclusion of anti-Israel language in the Draft Declaration and the Program of Action.)

On December 22, 2007, the General Assembly took action on a new Administration of Justice system (A/RES62/228). By pressing for the new system to be introduced gradually, costs were limited to approximately \$17 million.

The General Assembly in plenary session on December 21, 2007, adopted Resolution 62/238 approving funding for 26 Special Political Missions in the amount of \$386.6 million. Consideration of the Secretary-General’s proposal to build a UN integrated compound in Baghdad was deferred until 2008. Syria proposed amendments that would have shifted funding of SPMs from the regular budget, for which the U.S. rate of assessment is 22 percent, to the peacekeeping budget, for which the U.S. rate of assessment is 25.9 percent. The U.S. delegation succeeded in getting the Syrian delegation to withdraw the amendment to the SPM resolution.

On December 22, 2007, the General Assembly adopted Resolution A/62/234 to extend financing for the Procurement Task Force (PTF) to continue its investigation of 289 pending cases. The General Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General’s request for \$4.9 million to cover the costs of the 27-member task force through the end of 2008, at which time the PTF function would be absorbed by the Investigations Division of OIOS. The extension of financing for the PTF allowed for continued investigation of suspected waste, fraud, and mismanagement involving large and complex procurement contracts associated with UN peacekeeping missions.

UN Capital Master Plan

The UN Capital Master Plan (CMP) consists of a full renovation of the UN headquarters complex in New York. UN facilities, the majority of which are 55 years old, are not compliant with building codes for fire and life safety. They also are energy inefficient and do not meet modern security requirements. The proposal for the CMP was first introduced by the UN Secretary-General in 2000 and endorsed by the General Assembly in 2002 by Resolution 57/292. In 2006, through Resolutions 60/282 and 61/251, the General Assembly approved a project implementation strategy with an expected completion date of 2014 and a budget of nearly \$1.9 billion.

In 2007, a decision was reached to change the construction strategy for the CMP. The General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/87 in December,

to change the project implementation strategy to an accelerated approach. The resolution also expressed concern about projected cost increases and stressed the need for the UN to act to control risks on the project and contain costs.

In 2007, the UN projected cost overruns on the CMP of \$220 million. New CMP Executive Director Michael Adlerstein (United States) proposed an accelerated construction strategy that consisted of vacating and renovating the Secretariat building in one phase rather than multiple phases as planned under the previous strategy. The new strategy would shorten the overall construction schedule and reduce some risks associated with renovating a building that was still partially occupied. Changing the renovation strategy would save an estimated \$30 million. The UN also undertook an extensive value engineering process to try to identify additional cost savings. The UN has estimated over \$100 million in cost savings through value engineering, but no formal updated cost estimate has been issued.

The updated information provided on project costs and the proposal made in 2007 to change the project strategy generated discussion among members about how best to implement the CMP and try to contain potential cost overruns. The United States continued to press the UN to do everything possible to contain costs on the project and to meet member-state expectations that the approved project budget would be maintained. We expected that the UN would provide member states with updated cost information in late 2008.

UN Financial Situation

The United Nations ended 2007 with members' arrears totaling \$3.162 billion for assessments relating to the UN regular budget, the International Criminal Tribunals in the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and UN peacekeeping operations. The figure is \$850 million higher than at the end of 2006 when \$2.312 billion was outstanding. The higher figure reflects primarily amounts owed for UN peacekeeping operations, which accounted for \$2.7 billion of the total owed at the end of 2007. The total owed for the UN regular budget was \$428 million and the amounts owed for the international criminal tribunals and the Capital Master Plan were \$34 million and \$150 million respectively.

The United States accounted for \$1.493 billion or 47 percent of the total owed by all UN members at the end of 2007. Most of the U.S. debt, \$1.084 billion, related to UN peacekeeping operations. With respect to the UN regular budget, the United States was able to pay \$341.9 million towards its annual assessment of \$492.4 million by the end of the year. The United States was also able to pay \$34.8 million of its current year assessment for the two international criminal tribunals by December 31. The total U.S. payments in the course of calendar year 2007, for all UN assessments, amounted to \$1.7 billion. Most of the U.S. payments, approximately \$1.3 billion, related to assessments for peacekeeping.

On May 9, 2008, UN Controller Warren Sach (United Kingdom) reported on the UN's financial situation as of December 31, 2007. As in past

briefings, Mr. Sach examined the UN's financial position in relation to four main financial indicators: assessments issued, unpaid assessed contributions, available cash resources, and the UN's outstanding debt to member states. According to Mr. Sach, cash balances were higher at the end of 2007 than at the end of 2006. Assessments and payments to the UN's budget were higher in 2007 than in the previous year. By the end of the year, some 140 member states had paid their regular budget assessments in full. Approximately \$428 million of assessed contributions to the regular budget remained outstanding, representing an increase of some \$67 million from the previous year.

The total amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations at the end of 2007 was over \$2.7 billion. This was approximately \$800 million more than in the previous year and was due to the expansion in peacekeeping operations. According to Mr. Sach the United States owed \$1.084 billion of the total outstanding amount for peacekeeping.

In 2007, the debt owed to member states improved in comparison to the prior year but still amounted to \$779 million. This reflected a decrease from \$1 billion in 2006.

The Controller also reported that the financial position of the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia improved in 2007. Unpaid assessments for the tribunals fell from \$51 million in 2006 to \$34 million at the end of 2007. The number of member states paying their assessed contributions in full for both international tribunals increased from 99 at the end of 2006 to 105 by the end of 2007.

Overall, Mr. Sach noted some encouraging signs of progress in the financial position of the UN, including a slight increase in the number of member states that had fully paid their assessments by the end of 2007. He nonetheless concluded that the position of the organization remained fragile.

UN Joint Staff Pension Board

The General Assembly established the Joint Staff Pension Fund in Resolution 248 (III) (1948) to provide retirement, death, disability, and related benefits for staff in the UN system and other participating organizations. In 2007, the Fund had 22 member organizations.

The Joint Staff Pension Board governs the Fund and consists of 33 people, 12 from the UN (four selected by the General Assembly, four by the Secretary-General, and four by the participants) and 21 from the other participating organizations (comprised of representatives selected by the Governing Bodies, the Executive Heads, and participants). Prior to 2007, the Pension Board met every other year. To strengthen governance for the Fund, the Board decided in 2006 to hold annual sessions beginning in 2007. The 2007 Board report contains the revised budget for the 2006-2007 biennium, the budget request for the 2008-2009 biennium, and the Board's recommendation for "a viable *ad hoc* measure to attenuate adequately the adverse consequences arising from dollarization in Ecuador" as requested by General Assembly Resolution 61/240.

United States Participation in the United Nations - 2007

As of December 31, 2006, the Fund had 98,433 active participants and 56,718 beneficiaries. Actuarial valuations occur every two years to assess whether the Fund's current and projected assets are adequate to cover future liabilities. The Fund had an actuarial surplus of 1.29 percent of pensionable remuneration as of the end of 2005, which was the fifth consecutive surplus. The next valuation will cover the period ending on December 31, 2007. The market value of the Fund's assets was over \$37.3 billion as of March 31, 2007.

In the fall of 2007, the Fifth Committee considered the Board's report. In a statement to the Fifth Committee, the U.S. delegate commended the Pension Fund for "sound long-term financial planning and strong management." At the same time, the U.S. delegate denounced the Pension Board's proposal for *ad hoc*, one-time *ex gratia* payments to retirees and other beneficiaries of the Fund supposedly adversely affected by dollarization in Ecuador. The U.S. delegate strongly objected to the proposal as it would violate Pension Fund regulations, ignore the fact that the pensioners concerned were actually financially well off, and set a bad precedent for the future.

On December 21, 2007, the Fifth Committee adopted Resolution A/C.5/62/L.25 on the report of the Joint Staff Pension Fund Board by a vote of 140-1(U.S.)-1. Paragraph 10 of the resolution approved the Pension Board's request for an "exceptional payment" of approximately \$500,000 to 79 retirees affected by the consequences of dollarization in Ecuador. Paragraph 10 was adopted by a separately recorded vote of 93-1(U.S.)-47. The United States voted against the resolution due to its strong opposition to the measure approved in paragraph 10. In an explanation of its vote, the United States reiterated its strong criticism of the proposal, asserting, among other things, that, "We are deeply concerned that this resolution could invite requests for future payments in other cases of national economic instability." Resolution A/C.5/62/L.25 also approved the revised budget for the 2006-2007 biennium and the budget request for the 2008-2009 biennium and requested that the Secretary-General undertake a comprehensive review of the policymaking function within the pension fund Secretariat. On December 22, 2007, the General Assembly adopted the Fifth Committee Resolution (GA Res. 62/241).

Appendix 1

Address by President George W. Bush

Statement by President George W. Bush before the 62nd regular session of the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2007.

Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the opportunity to address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sixty years ago, representatives from 16 nations gathered to begin deliberations on a new international bill of rights. The document they produced is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- and it stands as a landmark achievement in the history of human liberty. It opens by recognizing "the inherent dignity" and the "equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family" as "the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world." And as we gather for this 62nd General Assembly, the standards of the Declaration must guide our work in this world.

Achieving the promise of the Declaration requires confronting long-term threats; it also requires answering the immediate needs of today. The nations in this chamber have our differences, yet there are some areas where we can all agree. When innocent people are trapped in a life of murder and fear, the Declaration is not being upheld. When millions of children starve to death or perish from a mosquito bite, we're not doing our duty in the world. When whole societies are cut off from the prosperity of the global economy, we're all worse off. Changing these underlying conditions is what the Declaration calls the work of "larger freedom" -- and it must be the work of every nation in this assembly.

This great institution must work for great purposes -- to free people from tyranny and violence, hunger and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and poverty and despair. Every member of the United Nations must join in this mission of liberation.

First, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from tyranny and violence. The first article of the Universal Declaration begins, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." The truth is denied by terrorists and extremists who kill the innocent with the aim of imposing their hateful vision on humanity. The followers of this violent ideology are a threat to civilized people everywhere. All civilized nations must work together to stop them -- by sharing intelligence about their

networks, and choking their [sic] -- off their finances, and bringing to justice their operatives.

In the long run, the best way to defeat extremists is to defeat their dark ideology with a more hopeful vision -- the vision of liberty that founded this body. The United States salutes the nations that have recently taken strides toward liberty -- including Ukraine and Georgia and Kyrgyzstan and Mauritania and Liberia, Sierra Leone and Morocco. The Palestinian Territories have moderate leaders, mainstream leaders that are working to build free institutions that fight terror, and enforce the law, and respond to the needs of their people. The international community must support these leaders, so that we can advance the vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security.

Brave citizens in Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have made the choice for democracy -- yet the extremists have responded by targeting them for murder. This is not a show of strength -- it is evidence of fear. And the extremists are doing everything in their power to bring down these young democracies. The people of Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have asked for our help. And every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand with them.

Every civilized nation also has a responsibility to stand up for the people suffering under dictatorship. In Belarus, North Korea, Syria, and Iran, brutal regimes deny their people the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Americans are outraged by the situation in Burma, where a military junta has imposed a 19-year reign of fear. Basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship are severely restricted. Ethnic minorities are persecuted. Forced child labor, human trafficking, and rape are common. The regime is holding more than 1,000 political prisoners -- including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party was elected overwhelmingly by the Burmese people in 1990.

The ruling junta remains unyielding, yet the people's desire for freedom is unmistakable. This morning, I'm announcing a series of steps to help bring peaceful change to Burma. The United States will tighten economic sanctions on the leaders of the regime and their financial backers. We will impose an expanded visa ban on those responsible for the most egregious violations of human rights, as well as their family members. We'll continue to support the efforts of humanitarian groups working to alleviate suffering in Burma. And I urge the United Nations and all nations to use their diplomatic and economic leverage to help the Burmese people reclaim their freedom.

In Cuba, the long rule of a cruel dictator is nearing its end. The Cuban people are ready for their freedom. And as that nation enters a period of transition,

Address by President George W. Bush

the United Nations must insist on free speech, free assembly, and ultimately, free and competitive elections.

In Zimbabwe, ordinary citizens suffer under a tyrannical regime. The government has cracked down on peaceful calls for reform, and forced millions to flee their homeland. The behavior of the Mugabe regime is an assault on its people -- and an affront to the principles of the Universal Declaration. The United Nations must insist on change in Harare -- and must insist for the freedom of the people of Zimbabwe.

In Sudan, innocent civilians are suffering repression -- and in the Darfur region, many are losing their lives to genocide. America has responded with tough sanctions against those responsible for the violence. We've provided more than \$2 billion in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid. I look forward to attending a Security Council meeting that will focus on Darfur, chaired by the French President. I appreciate France's leadership in helping to stabilize Sudan's neighbors. And the United Nations must answer this challenge to conscience, and live up to its promise to promptly deploy peacekeeping forces to Darfur.

Second, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from hunger and disease. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food and clothing and housing and medical care." Around the world, the United Nations is carrying out noble efforts to live up to these words.

Feeding the hungry has long been a special calling for my nation. Today, more than half the world's food assistance comes from America. We send emergency food stocks to starving people from camps in Sudan to slums in -- around the world. I've proposed an innovative initiative to alleviate hunger under which America would purchase the crops of local farmers in Africa and elsewhere, rather than shipping in food from the developed world. This would help build up local agriculture and break the cycle of famine in the developing world -- and I urge our United States Congress to support this initiative.

Many in this hall are bringing the spirit of generosity to fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria. Five years ago, in Sub-Saharan Africa, an AIDS diagnosis was widely considered a death sentence, and fewer than 50,000 people infected with the virus were receiving treatment. The world responded by creating the Global Fund, which is working with governments and the private sector to fight the disease around the world. The United States decided to take these steps a little further by launching the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Since 2003, this effort has helped bring cutting-edge medicines to more than a million people in sub-Sahara Africa. It's a good start. So earlier this

year, I proposed to double our initial commitment to \$30 billion. By coming together, the world can turn the tide against HIV/AIDS -- once and for all.

Malaria is another common killer. In some countries, malaria takes as many lives as HIV/AIDS -- the vast majority of them children under the age of five years old. Every one of these deaths is unnecessary, because the disease is preventable and treatable. The world knows what it takes to stop malaria -- bed nets and indoor spraying and medicine to treat the disease. Two years ago, America launched a \$1.2 billion malaria initiative. Other nations and the private sector are making vital contributions, as well. I call on every member state to maintain its focus, find new ways to join this cause, and bring us closer to the day when malaria deaths are no more.

Third, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from the chains of illiteracy and ignorance. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to education." And when nations make the investments needed to educate their people, the whole world benefits. Better education unleashes the talent and potential of its citizens, and adds to the prosperity of all of us. Better education promotes better health and greater independence. Better education increases the strength of democracy, and weakens the appeal of violent ideologies. So the United States is joining with nations around the world to help them provide a better education for their people.

A good education starts with good teachers. In partnership with other nations, America has helped train more than 600,000 teachers and administrators. A good education requires good textbooks. So in partnership with other nations, America has distributed tens of millions of textbooks. A good education requires access to good schools. So in partnership with other nations, America is helping nations raise standards in their schools at home, and providing scholarships to help students come to schools in the United States. In all our education efforts, our nation is working to expand access for women and girls, so that the opportunity to get a decent education is open to all.

Finally, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from poverty and despair. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, [and] to just and favorable conditions of work." In the 21st century, this requires ensuring that people in poor countries have the same opportunity to benefit from the global economy that citizens of wealthy countries have.

The United Nations provides vital economic assistance designed to help developing nations grow their economies and reach their potential. The United States agrees with that position; we've dramatically increased our own development assistance -- and we're delivering that aid in innovative ways.

Address by President George W. Bush

We started the Millennium Challenge Account to reward nations that govern justly, fight corruption, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom. With this aid, we're reaching out to developing nations in partnership, not paternalism. And we're ensuring that our aid dollars reach those who need them -- and achieve results.

In the long run, the best way to lift people out of poverty is through trade and investment. A nation that is open and trading with the world will create economic rewards that far exceed anything they could get through foreign aid. During the 1990s, developing nations that significantly lowered tariffs saw their per capita income grow about three times faster than other developing countries. Open markets ignite growth, encourage investment, increase transparency, strengthen the rule of law, and help countries help themselves.

The international community now has an historic chance to open markets around the world by concluding a successful Doha Round of trade talks. A successful Doha outcome would mean real and substantial openings in agriculture, goods, and services -- and real and substantial reductions in trade-distorting subsidies. The world's largest trading nations, including major developing countries, have a special responsibility to make the tough political decisions to reduce trade barriers. America has the will and flexibility to make those necessary decisions. Our negotiators are demonstrating that spirit in Geneva. I urge other leaders to direct their negotiators to do the same. And I'm optimistic that we can reach a good Doha agreement -- and seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

In the meantime, America will continue to pursue agreements that open trade and investment wherever we can. We recently signed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements embody the values of open markets -- transparent and fair regulation, respect for private property, and resolving disputes under international law rules. These are good agreements, and they're now ready for a congressional vote, and I urge the Congress to approve them as soon as possible.

As America works with the United Nations to alleviate immediate needs, we're also coming together to address longer-term challenges. Together, we're preparing for pandemics that could cause death and suffering on a global scale. Together, we're working to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Together, we're confronting the challenges of energy security, and environmental quality, and climate change. I appreciate the discussions on climate change led by the Secretary General last night. I look forward to further discussions at the meeting of major economies in Washington later this week.

The goals I've outlined today cannot be achieved overnight -- and they cannot be achieved without reform in this vital institution. The United States is

committed to a strong and vibrant United Nations. Yet the American people are disappointed by the failures of the Human Rights Council. This body has been silent on repression by regimes from Havana to Caracas to Pyongyang and Tehran -- while focusing its criticism excessively on Israel. To be credible on human rights in the world, the United Nations must reform its own Human Rights Council.

Some have also called for reform to the structure of the Security Council, including an expansion of its membership. The United States is open to this prospect. We believe that Japan is well-qualified for permanent membership on the Security Council, and that other nations should be considered, as well. The United States will listen to all good ideas, and we will support changes to the Security Council as part of broader U.N. reform. And in all we do, I call on member states to work for an institution that adheres to strict ethical standards, and lives up to the high principles of the Universal Declaration.

With the commitment and courage of this chamber, we can build a world where people are free to speak, assemble, and worship as they wish; a world where children in every nation grow up healthy, get a decent education, and look to the future with hope; a world where opportunity crosses every border. America will lead toward this vision where all are created equal, and free to pursue their dreams. This is the founding conviction of my country. It is the promise that established this body. And with our determination, it can be the future of our world.

Thank you, and God bless.

Appendix 2

Principal UN Organs

General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all 192 members of the United Nations. As of December 31, 2007, they are:

Member	Date of Admission
Afghanistan	Nov. 19, 1946
Albania	Dec. 14, 1955
Algeria	Oct. 8, 1962
Andorra	July 28, 1993
Angola	Dec. 1, 1976
Antigua and Barbuda	Nov. 11, 1981
Argentina	Oct. 24, 1945
Armenia	March 2, 1992
Australia	Nov. 1, 1945
Austria	Dec. 14, 1955
Azerbaijan	March 2, 1992
Bahamas	Sept. 18, 1973
Bahrain	Sept. 21, 1971
Bangladesh	Sept. 17, 1974
Barbados	Dec. 9, 1966
Belarus	Oct. 24, 1945
Belgium	Dec. 27, 1945
Belize	Sept. 25, 1981
Benin	Sept. 20, 1960
Bhutan	Sept. 21, 1960
Bolivia	Nov. 14, 1945
Bosnia and Herzegovina	May 22, 1992
Botswana	Oct. 17, 1966
Brazil	Oct. 24, 1945
Brunei Darussalam	Sept. 21, 1984
Bulgaria	Dec. 14, 1955
Burkina Faso	Sept. 20, 1960
Burundi	Sept. 18, 1962
Cambodia	Dec. 14, 1955
Cameroon	Sept. 20, 1960
Canada	Nov. 9, 1945
Cape Verde	Sept. 16, 1975
Central African Republic	Sept. 20, 1960
Chad	Sept. 20, 1960
Chile	Oct. 24, 1945
China	Oct. 24, 1945
Colombia	Nov. 5, 1945
Comoros	Nov. 12, 1975

United States Participation in the United Nations—2007

Congo	Sept. 20, 1960
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Sept. 20, 1960
Costa Rica	Nov. 2, 1945
Cote d'Ivoire	Sept. 20, 1960
Croatia	May 22, 1992
Cuba	Oct. 24, 1945
Cyprus	Sept. 20, 1960
Czech Republic	Jan. 19, 1993
Denmark	Oct. 24, 1945
Djibouti	Sept. 20, 1977
Dominica	Dec. 18, 1978
Dominican Republic	Oct. 24, 1945
Ecuador	Dec. 21, 1945
Egypt	Oct. 24, 1945
El Salvador	Oct. 24, 1945
Equatorial Guinea	Nov. 12, 1968
Eritrea	May 28, 1993
Estonia	Sept. 17, 1991
Ethiopia	Nov. 13, 1945
Fiji	Oct. 13, 1970
Finland	Dec. 14, 1955
France	Oct. 24, 1945
Gabon	Sept. 20, 1960
Gambia	Sept. 21, 1965
Georgia	July 31, 1992
Germany	Sept. 18, 1973
Ghana	March 8, 1957
Greece	Oct. 25, 1945
Grenada	Sept. 17, 1974
Guatemala	Nov. 21, 1945
Guinea	Dec. 12, 1958
Guinea-Bissau	Sept. 17, 1974
Guyana	Sept. 20, 1966
Haiti	Oct. 24, 1945
Honduras	Dec. 17, 1945
Hungary	Dec. 14, 1955
Iceland	Nov. 19, 1946
India	Oct. 30, 1945
Indonesia	Sept. 28, 1950
Iran	Oct. 24, 1945
Iraq	Dec. 21, 1945
Ireland	Dec. 14, 1955
Israel	May 11, 1949
Italy	Dec. 14, 1955
Jamaica	Sept. 18, 1962
Japan	Dec. 18, 1956
Jordan	Dec. 14, 1955
Kazakhstan	March 2, 1992
Kenya	Dec. 16, 1963
Kiribati	Sept. 14, 1999
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Sept. 17, 1991
Korea, Republic of	Sept. 17, 1991

Principal UN Organs

Kuwait	May 14, 1963
Kyrgyzstan	March 2, 1992
Laos	Dec. 14, 1955
Latvia	Sept. 17, 1991
Lebanon	Oct. 24, 1945
Lesotho	Oct. 17, 1966
Liberia	Nov. 2, 1945
Libya	Dec. 14, 1955
Liechtenstein	Sept. 18, 1990
Lithuania	Sept. 17, 1991
Luxembourg	Oct. 24, 1945
Madagascar	Sept. 20, 1960
Malawi	Dec. 1, 1964
Malaysia	Sept. 17, 1957
Maldives	Sept. 21, 1965
Mali	Sept. 28, 1960
Malta	Dec. 1, 1964
Marshall Islands	Sept. 17, 1991
Mauritania	Oct. 27, 1961
Mauritius	April 24, 1968
Mexico	Nov. 7, 1945
Micronesia	Sept. 17, 1991
Moldova	March 2, 1992
Monaco	May 28, 1993
Mongolia	Oct. 27, 1961
Montenegro*	June 28, 2006
Morocco	Nov. 12, 1956
Mozambique	Sept. 16, 1975
Myanmar (Burma)	April 19, 1948
Namibia	April 23, 1990
Nauru, Republic of	Sept. 14, 1999
Nepal	Dec. 14, 1955
Netherlands, The	Dec. 10, 1945
New Zealand	Oct. 24, 1945
Nicaragua	Oct. 24, 1945
Niger	Sept. 20, 1960
Nigeria	Oct. 7, 1960
Norway	Nov. 27, 1945
Oman	Oct. 7, 1971
Pakistan	Sept. 30, 1947
Palau	Dec. 15, 1994
Panama	Nov. 13, 1945
Papua New Guinea	Oct. 10, 1975
Paraguay	Oct. 24, 1945
Peru	Oct. 31, 1945
Philippines	Oct. 24, 1945
Poland	Oct. 24, 1945
Portugal	Dec. 14, 1955
Qatar	Sept. 21, 1971
Romania	Dec. 14, 1955
Russian Federation	Oct. 24, 1945
Rwanda	Sept. 18, 1962

United States Participation in the United Nations—2007

Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sept. 23, 1983
Saint Lucia	Sept. 18, 1979
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	Sept. 16, 1980
Samoa	Dec. 15, 1976
San Marino	March 2, 1992
Sao Tome and Principe	Sept. 16, 1975
Saudi Arabia	Oct. 24, 1945
Senegal	Sept. 28, 1960
Serbia*	Nov. 1, 2000
Seychelles	Sept. 21, 1976
Sierra Leone	Sept. 27, 1961
Singapore	Sept. 21, 1965
Slovak Republic	Jan. 19, 1993
Slovenia	May 22, 1992
Solomon Islands	Sept. 19, 1978
Somalia	Sept. 20, 1960
South Africa	Nov. 7, 1945
Spain	Dec. 14, 1955
Sri Lanka	Dec. 14, 1955
Sudan	Nov. 12, 1956
Suriname	Dec. 4, 1975
Swaziland	Sept. 24, 1968
Sweden	Nov. 19, 1946
Switzerland	Sept. 10, 2002
Syria	Oct. 24, 1945
Tajikistan	March 2, 1992
Tanzania	Dec. 14, 1961
Thailand	Dec. 16, 1946
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	April 8, 1993
Timor-Leste	Sept. 27, 2002
Togo	Sept. 20, 1960
Tonga, Kingdom of	Sept. 14, 1999
Trinidad and Tobago	Sept. 18, 1962
Tunisia	Nov. 12, 1956
Turkey	Oct. 24, 1945
Tuvalu	Sept. 5, 2000
Turkmenistan	March 2, 1992
Uganda	Oct. 25, 1962
Ukraine	Oct. 24, 1945
United Arab Emirates	Dec. 9, 1971
United Kingdom	Oct. 24, 1945
United States	Oct. 24, 1945
Uruguay	Dec. 18, 1945
Uzbekistan	March 2, 1992
Vanuatu	Sept. 15, 1981
Venezuela	Nov. 15, 1945
Vietnam	Sept. 20, 1977
Yemen	Sept. 30, 1947
Zambia	Dec. 1, 1964
Zimbabwe	Aug. 25, 1980

*The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original member of the United Nations (signing the Charter on October 19, 1945) until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was admitted as a member on November 1, 2000.

On February 4, 2003, the name of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to Serbia/Montenegro. On June 3, 2006, Montenegro declared independence from Serbia.

The 62nd regular session of the General Assembly convened September 18, 2007, and was suspended December 21.

The Assembly elected Srgjan Kerim (Macedonia) as President and the Chairs of the Delegations of Bahamas, Benin, Botswana, China, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, Gambia, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq, Mauritius, Palau, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay as the 21 Vice Presidents.

The Chairs of the six Main Committees, on which each member may be represented, were:

- First Committee (Disarmament and International Security): Paul Badji (Senegal)
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial): Kirsti Lintonen (Finland)
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural): Raymond Wolfe (Jamaica)
- Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization): Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad (Sudan)
- Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary): Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)
- Sixth Committee (Legal): Alexei Tulbure (Republic of Moldova)

The General Committee (steering committee) is composed of the President, the 21 Vice Presidents, and the Chairs of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly.

Security Council

The Security Council is composed of five members designated in the Charter as permanent (China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and 10 members elected by the General

Assembly for two-year terms ending December 31 of the year given in the heading:

- 2007: Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar, and Slovakia
- 2008: Belgium, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, and South Africa

In October the Assembly elected, as members of the Security Council for two-year terms of office beginning January 1, 2008, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Libya, and Vietnam.

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council is composed of the United States and the other four permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom).

In 1994, the Trusteeship Council adopted an amendment to its rules of procedure stating that it will meet in the future only on request. The Council last met in August 2006.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC is composed of 54 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms ending December 31 of the year given in the heading:

- 2007: Albania, Australia, Brazil, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Guinea, Iceland, India, Lithuania, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, and the United Kingdom;
- 2008: Angola, Austria, Benin, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritania, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.
- 2009: Algeria, Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia, Canada, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malawi, The Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, and the United States of America.
- 2010: Brazil, Cameroon, China, Congo, Iceland, Malaysia, Moldova, Mozambique, New Zealand, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice consists of 15 members elected by the General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms ending on February 5 of the year shown in parentheses. The judges, as of December 31, 2007, listed in order of precedence, are:

- Rosalyn Higgins, United Kingdom (2009), President
- Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, Jordan (2009), Vice President
- Raymond Ranjeva, Madagascar (2009)
- Shi Jiuyong, China (2012)
- Abdul G. Koroma, Sierra Leone (2012)
- Gonzalo Parra-Aranguren, Venezuela (2009)
- Thomas Buergenthal, United States (2015)
- Hisashi Owada, Japan (2012)
- Bruno Simma, Germany (2012)
- Peter Tomka, Slovakia (2012)
- Ronny Abraham, France (2009)
- Kenneth Keith, New Zealand (2015)
- Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Mexico (2015)
- Mohamed Bennouna, Morocco (2015)
- Leonid Skotnikov, Russia (2015)

UN Secretariat

The Secretariat, one of the principal organs of the United Nations, services the other UN bodies, administering the programs and policies laid down by them. It is headed by the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon began his term on January 1, 2007. The Secretariat has a staff drawn from about 170 countries:

- Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General
- Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General
- Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, Under Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs
- Inga-Britt Ahlenius, Under Secretary-General, Office of Internal Oversight Services
- Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Under Secretary-General, Department of Management
- Muhammad Shaaban, Under Secretary-General, Department for General Assembly and Conference Services

United States Participation in the United Nations—2007

- Antonio Maria Costa, Director General (rank of Under Secretary-General), UN Office at Vienna; Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
- B. Lynn Pascoe, Under Secretary-General, Department of Political Affairs
- Jean-Marie Guehenno, Under Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary (rank of Under Secretary-General), Economic Commission for Africa
- Vijay Nambiar, Chief of Staff (rank of Under Secretary-General)
- Nicolas Michel, Under Secretary-General, Office of Legal Affairs
- Sha Zukang, Under Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under Secretary-General, Department of Public Information
- Anna K. Tibaijuka, Director-General, UN Office at Nairobi
- Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UN Environment Program
- David Veness, Under Secretary-General, Safety and Security

The **Senior Management Group** is a committee of senior UN managers that serves as the Secretary-General's cabinet and the central policy planning body of the United Nations. It comprises Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (Chair), Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, all of the Under Secretary-Generals, and the following:

- Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Marek Belka, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe
- Cheick Sidi Diarra, High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked, and Small Island Developing States
- Radhika Coomaraswamy (from February 2006), Special Rapporteur for Children and Armed Conflict
- Kemal Dervis, Administrator, UN Development Program
- Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees
- José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Principal UN Organs

- Rachel Mayanja, Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women
- Josette Sheeran, Executive Director, World Food Program
- Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UN Population Fund
- Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze, Director General, UN Office at Geneva
- Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UN Conference on Trade and Development
- Bader Al-Dafa, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
- Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director, UN Children's Fund